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*Select Documents from the
Satara Residency Records, Peshwa Daftar, Poona.*

Raja Shahji of Satara

1839-1848

62979

Edited by

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PREFACE

The Satara Residency Records (1818-1848), about a 150 files cover the reigns of Rajas Pratabsinh and his brother Shahji. The present select documents, with those given in the earlier volume, Raja Pratabsinh (1818-1839), have been chosen with care, over a few years. They are highly informative and give an account, political and administrative, of the Satara State from its foundation in 1818 to the death of Shahji in 1848.

The select documents on the reign of Pratabsinh are not only the contents of the Satara Residency Records at the Peshwa Daftar, Poona, but select documents also from the Elphinstone Papers in London. The present volume on Shahji is built only on the Satara Papers here at the Peshwa Daftar, Poona. The records are well preserved. There is no list of contents to these Files and, therefore, require a careful reading of all papers before a selection of the documents can be made.

The picture that one gets of the time, is clear and tolerably full. And the two volumes are complementary to each other. The story of Pratabsinh continues in the early years of Shahji's reign. In case, it takes up a considerable part of this second volume, the value of the second volume on Shahji's reign lies in the defence that Charles Ovens gives of his conduct towards Raja Pratabsinh. I have reason to feel that none of these letters could have been published so far. Though tomes have been written on Pratabsinh's defence, the letters from Ovens, as given in these selections, could not have seen the light of day so far.

My main aim has been to pursue the tragic life of Pratabsinh and try to give as full a picture of those unhappy events. I cannot claim to have written so full an account as to satisfy my readers to the utmost. But, I trust, that I have succeeded in stirring the

curiosity of my reader. The pursuit of this curiosity may lead to the biography of Pratabsinh in a more fuller sense than the Story of Satara as given by Mr. Basu. The labour would require immense pains in sifting all the evidence available both here and in the India Office Library in London.

Pratabsinh's life cannot be only based on English records; nor Shahji's administration and times without a careful and close study of the modi records at the Peshwa Daftar—especially Pratabsinh's Diaries. These Diaries must contain information of great value. No record, it appears, is so complete as that on the Satara State. There are, says Mr. Sardesai, 3,867 rumals in the Satara Maharaja's Daftar: "If these rumals could be minutely examined for purposes of history, a tolerably full account of thirty years of Maratha rule at Satara could be prepared." (Sardesai) The value of these modi papers is administrative rather than historical: "The rumals contain mostly village accounts of territories under the control of the Raja...." The few inward and outward letters, we are told, are of no historical value. Yet history awaits a more patient and fuller examination of this immense record before a clearer verdict can be pronounced on their historical value.

It is, indeed, sad that the work at the Poona Daftar, in proportion to its contents, has been rather poor. As compared to foreign countries, especially the West, we in India, are not historically minded. A very small portion of our students go in for research. But this is no news nor do I have the right to sermonise. The Peshwa Daftar, as Mr. Logan said, is perhaps the single largest archive in the world. A life time, no matter how devoted, can touch just the fringe of this vast store-house of rich historical material. I am not exhausted, in repeating over the years, that we need more scholars, an interested Government, University or even a private body to work out a programme to unearth this archival treasure which is the primary source for the writing of history.

The author acknowledges his indebtedness to the University of Poona for the grant-in-aid received by him from the University towards the cost of Publication of his book. To Lady Cowasji Jehangir, The Trustees of the R. D. Tata Trust, and the Modern Education Society of the Nowrosjee Wadia College, the Editor is grateful for the publication-grants given. Among friends who have always been sympathetic to these efforts, Mr. R. B. Patel, Mrs. N. H. Palkhiwala, and Mrs. M. E. Meherhomji deserve special mention. The Editor is, indeed, very thankful to them. In these days of paper shortage and innumerable other difficulties in printing, words fail the Editor to express his gratitude to Prof. S. R. Dastane and Mr. V. R. Dastane for having so kindly undertaken the task of getting this book printed. This work was prepared for printing by May 1970 ; I am happy that it has at last seen the light of day.

Poona 1,
18th February 1974 }

—R. D. CHOKSEY

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RAJA SHAHJI (1839-1848)

Appa Saheb succeeded to the throne of Satara on the deposition of his brother Pratabsinh on 5th September, 1839. On his accession to the throne, he took the title of Raja Shahji. It was a short and colourless reign of a little over seven years. Though given much credit for his love of public works, it was merely the continuation of a programme taken in hand by his brother Pratabsinh. He may have shown some enthusiasm in the administration of the State, on his accession to the throne, of which too much is made by the Resident Charles Ovans. He is very much admired by the British Government of the day for his co-operation in all direction and his willingness to toe the line and stand to attention like a circus animal to the crack of the trainer's whip. Pratabsinh was far too spirited as his successor far too tame. The one renounced his throne and went into exile for the sake of truth, the other kept his throne at any price. When the British asked Pratabsinh to abide by the Treaty of 1819, according to their interpretation, he said he would be reduced to the position of a mamlatdar; while his brother acquiesced in the complete loss of his authority over his Jagirdars and remained "yours very obediently" in all things to the end of his reign. Shahji had no choice. The throne of Satara was the prize for the betrayal of his brother. How far is this true?

Shahji's ill will towards his brother is borne out by many people. He may have supplied Colonel Lodwick and Charles Ovans with evidence falsely criminating Pratabsinh; this may be true. But there is no direct evidence to show that Shahji played an active part in the dethronement of his brother. Neither Lodwick nor Ovans, at any time, quote Shahji as bearing any evidence or pointing out criminating incidents, in which the Ex Raja was involved. Therefore, we are in no position to state how far Shahji was guilty of plotting against his brother. That Shahji may have said things against his brother is hinted by Ovans in his defence against Lodwick's accusations, when Lodwick was in London.

One of the many charges against Ovans, was his lack of generosity in not warning the Ex Raja of the troubles that were soon to overtake him. But this was when the Commission to examine Pratabsinh's guilty conduct against the British Government was carrying out its inquiries. Ovans wrote, in his defence: "I who had only come a few days before to Sattara, who had never seen the Raja or his brother, should divulge the evidence given before the secret Commission *and warn the Ex Raja against his brother** that is to use General Lodwick's own words "more than ridiculous". This is, perhaps, the only passage, in Ovans many letters in his defence, in which we learn that Shahji must have said some things against his brother before the Commission. Yet on another occasion, giving a history of the Sattara case, he wrote: "It is false that he was the accuser of his brother—on the contrary his name never occurs in the three charges brought against the Ex Raja. The Ex Raja himself told me that he did not blame his brother." In spite of this statement, aware of the part Shahji must have played in Pratabsinh's ruin, Ovans to exonerate Shahji says: "The disclosure made to Sir Robert Grant was meant to save not to ruin him." What was this disclosure? Until one reads the Commission's findings, which were kept a close secret, (even from the accused Pratabsinh), we cannot definitely say how far his brother was one of the conspirators. Pratabsinh, even in exile, constantly requested to be given the opportunity to read the accusations against him, was always told, that the Commission's Report was a State secret which could not be shown. Can an accused be tried and condemned without knowing the charge sheet? So much for British justice.

The only person, who spoke well of Shahji's character, was again Charles Ovans, the Resident: "Let us now turn to the character of his successor, on whom the grossest abuse is unsparingly lavished by the partizans of the Ex Raja both in England and in this country. I have had the best opportunities of knowing this Prince, and I may safely bear witness to his sobriety, temperance and good disposition". Who were the partisans of the Ex Raja? Residents like James Grant and General John Briggs. Grant, when he first met Shahji, wrote of his impression of the lad: "The younger brother was called Sayajee or Appa Sahib.

* Italics are mine.

He was an obstinate and ill disposed lad with very low, vicious habits, which in spite of all admonitions of the Raja could not be improved or got the better of". Child is father to the man. Shahji's vicious habits shaped him into a debauch fond of sensual pleasures. If Ovans claims that he had opportunities to know Shahji, so did General Briggs. Of Shahji, Briggs said, that he was "the most licentious of the Native Princes of India.... This is on record." And this was not testimony from hearsay but from Shahji's beautiful wife known to the Briggs' family. In the present selections there is a petition to the Governor, when Ovans refused to set matters right, that Shahji had forcibly occupied a bungalow where he kept a Mohammedan mistress. On the death of Shahji, a theft of Rs. 22,700 and some gold bars was attempted by one Oomabai called by Mr. Frere, the Resident, 'a dependent' but there is reason to believe that she must be his mistress.

Shahji's reign is devoid of any political incidents worthy of notice except the Afghan War in which, like other Princes of India, Shahji placed at the disposal of the British Government, the resources of his kingdom. These selections include the letter of 'the victorious British standards' and the equally ridiculous 'sandalwood gates' being brought back in triumph after eight hundred years to the Temple of Somnath. This empty boast was even laughed at by Englishmen at home. Shahji's seven years on the throne of Satara, though colourless, were of peace and quiet. He did all that the Residents told him to do. Hence the administrative reports submitted yearly are of constant praise of Shahji's Government. He was congratulated for his mild administration, the acceptance of all reforms, and constant activity in the department of Public Works. On these activities we shall comment later. But what is of importance is the light thrown, in the few early years of Shahji's reign, on the affairs of the last reign.

Colonel Ovans knew no peace for some time after the accession of Shahji to the throne of Satara. Pratapsinh was not forgotten. Rungo Bapuji, Major General Lodwick, Sir Charles Forbes, Mr. George Thompson, Captain Cogan all agitated in the Ex Raja's favour seeking redress and justice for that unhappy Prince. Of course, all these efforts were to end in smoke, and Pratapsinh died of a broken heart. Though there were rebellions in and round Satara in which Ovans saw the hand of the Ex Raja,

but, as usual, he found that most of the evidence rested on forged documents and false seals. But his worst enemies were in England, and the two most active, were Lodwick, whom Ovans succeeded as Resident, and Thompson the Raja's Agent in London. The present selections from 1839, contain a few letters from Ovans to the Government of Bombay, seeking to exonerate himself of the charges against him by Lodwick and Thompson. We have also the certified translations of the evidence of the native conspirators and of letters written to Pratabsinh by his Native Agents from London. All these documents are a rich store of information on the aftermath of Pratabsinh's reign; they cast some colour on the erstwhile dull reign of his brother.

Pratabsinh left Satara on the 5th September 1839 and reached Benares on 16th April 1840. Of these eight months, he spent three (from 5th September to 7th December) at Nimbgaum in the neighbourhood of Satara. In this long journey (927 miles) he passed through nine* stations till he reached Benares in April. The probable dates of his arrival at each of these stations are given by Lieutenant F. Cristall in his letter of the 12th March 1840. Lieut. Cristall was designated as Agent to the Ex Raja, and was commissioned to accompany him till he reached Benares. He was to keep the Government informed by constant communications of the Ex Raja's progress on his journey. We have a diary kept by this officer which gives practically, a day to day account of their journey. With the exception of the death of the Raja's cousin Balla Saheb Senapati, there were no untoward incidents of any kind. Much credit goes to Lieut. Cristall in pushing this human caravan to the end of its journey. It required excellent planning to steer no less than 2,700 followers, including the military escort, and 1,353 animals of which 500 were horses and tatoes and 600 bullocks. The amount of grass consumed daily was 7,000 maunds; and wheat, flour, rice, dal, gram, etc., went in khandies and maunds per day. The credit to keep these men and animals adequately fed does not only go to Lieut. Cristall but also to those who cooperated with him all along his journey. Cristall records: "We have hitherto been well furnished with every requisite, and have found the Thakoors and other native authority exceedingly attentive and obliging to us."

* Ahmednagar; Malegaum; Dhulia; Asserghur; Mhow; Bhopal; Sagar; Rewa; Mirzapur; and Benares.

We cannot pass by, the only untoward incident, the death of the Senapati. An incident over which Lieut. Cristall got into trouble with the Court of Directors. The Senapati died on 27th January 1840 at 3 O'clock p. m., as Cristall informed the Resident in Indore. The next day Cristall wrote to Ovens: "I received no intelligence until yesterday midday, when several of the Raja's people visited me requesting a halt, as the Synaputty was in so dangerous a state that he could not be moved." Cristall refused to halt. "The tents etc., which are daily sent in advance were accordingly despatched, but at 3 O'clock the karkoon and others of the Raja's people came to me with the news of the Synaputty's death." Cristall's main anxiety was to see that no other than the Senapati's body was cremated. "There was no deceit in substituting another person's body for the Synaputty's, as I saw the face of the deceased on his being conveyed to the pile." This is all that he was worried about. This brutality was typical of British officialdom in India. This scant respect for the lives of Indians, can be multiplied in many other incidents in Anglo-Indian History. Pratabsinh and his family were extremely distressed, and Cristall wrote: "I have consented to halt for two days for the purpose of permitting some ceremonies (which are considered absolutely necessary) to be performed." But for this absolute necessity for ceremonies, this brute would have ordered the journey to continue.

Did Cristall, at any time, when informed of the serious condition of the Senapati, go to the tent of the Senapati to satisfy himself of his serious condition or the nature of his illness? He did not. He was condemned for this behaviour by the Court of Directors in spite of his explanations and the support of Colonel Ovens, who wrote in his defence to the Bombay Government. When informed of the Senapati's serious condition Cristall wrote: "I imagined that it was a mere pretence" and that the Senapati's illness was a pretext to halt and waste time, which he said, was a common failing with the natives. To waste time is a common failing with the natives but there can be no excuse for not going to the Senapati to find out how ill he was. Such behaviour was arrogance. Instead, he offered the services of the Assistant Surgeon Baxter. Baxter was not in camp, but had gone to a nearby station, Mhow. He was to return the same

evening, but if needed immediately, could be instantly sent for. Cristall says, that he offered the services of the surgeon to the Senapati but his people refused the offer. "I, therefore, did not think of sending for the Assistant Surgeon Baxter, more especially as I knew he would rejoin the camp before nightfall — about two hours afterwards I heard the alarm that Balla Sahib Senapati was dead". Cristall pleads further that he had not the least suspicion of any danger to Balla Sahib's life. Just two days before his death he had seen him "looking well and hearty." Baxter, said Cristall, would not have been admitted much less his advise followed. Though Pratabsinh was always anxious to consult a European doctor in case of any serious accident, he is known to have said, that though he entertained a high opinion of their surgical skill, he would rather seek the advise of the native *hakim* in all cases of physical ailments.

It was also claimed that the Senapati died of the rigors of the journey. Cristall claimed, that they travelled at the rate of about nine miles a day, and this by no means could be regarded as so strenuous as to have exhausted the Senapati to death. It was also suggested, that the Senapati's illness may have been there even before they set out on the journey, and hence his end was much nearer than any mortal could foretell. But it was not the nature of his illness that mattered so much as the end he met.

The Court of Directors recorded its strong disapproval of Cristall's explanation of the Senapati's death. They wrote: "We cannot pass without an expression of our serious displeasure." They condemned Cristall on the ground that he was not justified "in taking for granted, that the representation of the Senapati's unfitness to travel was without foundation. In the absence of the Medical Officer, he ought either to have consented to halt or to have requested a personal interview with the patient and formed his judgment thereon". This displeasure was conveyed by the Bombay Government to Ovans at Satara. Ovans, as expected, supported Cristall's conduct, that the Ex Raja had already delayed his journey to Benaras so long "that I particularly impressed upon Lieutenant Cristall the necessity of admitting of no unnecessary halts". Ovans, ever suspicious of the Raja's intentions, gave out that "the Raja had some particular object in view in going to Mhow or halting in the neighbourhood".

The Raja had nothing to do with halting or the choice of the station where they halted. Ovans continued to persue the Ex Raja relentlessly, and read motives in the Raja's actions when there were none. His enmity was undoubted, and yet the hypocritic said, that he had nothing against the Raja. Ovans suggested, that if the Senapati had lived, Cristall would have "exposed himself to censure from Government" — Why — because he halted unnecessarily. Could any suggestion be more absurd ! Ovans called Cristall's conduct "this single error of judgment" and prayed the Honourable Court that it be not weighed "against the merits and services of this able and deserving officer". This defence did not answer the questions raised by the Court of Directors, and their final decision was conveyed to the Government of Bombay on 19th May 1840. "Lieutenant Cristall's further explanation of his conduct with reference to the Senapati's illness and death have not altered our former sentiments".

Shortly after Pratabsinh's dethronement and exile, insurrections broke out in Satara and its neighbourhood. The most serious was the capture of Badami by the rebels lead by Arabs. Ovans immediately traced it to the adherents of the Ex Raja. But there was no direct evidence to implicate the Ex Raja. Ovans knew, that if the Ex Raja could be involved, the Bombay Government could deprive Pratabsinh of his pension or punish him in some other way. This could only be done, if any conspiracy to create trouble for Shahji be traced to Pratabsinh, or his declared adherents.

It was in June 1841, that Ovans informed Mr. Willoughby, Secretary to the Government of Bombay, of the insurrection by Arabs who had gathered in the Nizam's country. They took possession of Badami "and seized the treasury". Ovans wrote, of the steps taken to crush the rebellion, but did not know the ultimate object of the rebels. Shahji in the meantime forwarded certain papers in marathi to Ovans pointing out a person called Nursappa or Nursoo Punt, a blind brahmin, as one of the leaders of the Arab insurgents at Badami. This blind brahmin had been implicated in some such rebellion in 1840; but owing to lack of any further intelligence, at the time, the matter was allowed to rest. Ovans could hardly believe that so incapacitated an indivi-

dual could plan what he did without the supports of persons of wealth and consequence. Ovans confessed, that even then, he had no conclusive proof that the papers in their possession were those of Nursoo Punt, except the evidence of Nursingrao Bhonsle a relation of the late Senapati. This is how Ovans drew nearer Pratabsinh. He recalled a meeting between this blind brahmin and the Ex Raja at Nimbgaum. The intention was to link up that meeting between the Ex Raja and the blind brahmin with the Arab insurrection. One of the marathi papers was supposed to be written by the Ex Raja to Nursoo Punt, but had no signature or seal. It was believed that the hand writing was that of a servant of Nursoo Punt. Ovans suggested that Nursoo Punt be made to face some of the other suspects so that more light could be thrown on the affair.

In a little over a fortnight Ovans wrote to Willoughby that Mr. Shaw, Political Agent, Southern Maratha Country, had sent him his report and translations of depositions regarding the insurrection at Badami. "I beg to state" wrote Ovans, "that having had them closely examined and compared here with the other papers of Nursing Row in my possession, I have come to conclusion, that these papers are not genuine, but that they have been fabricated either by himself or by some one under his direction". So much for Nursingrao Bhonsle's evidence, the relative of the Senapati. Ovans gave up the ghost at the close of the letter stating : "I have not been able to discover any connection between any person now at Sattara and the insurgents at Badamee". Though the conspirators were not found, the insurrection was eventually crushed.

In September 1841, Mr. Shaw again informed Ovans of a large body of Arabs assembled at Gokah, with intensions to move on Sattara. Ovans said that he had reports to show that "The Ex Raja, and some jageerdars, are the instigators of these disturbances". He could hardly entertain a doubt in the matter, but "I have not myself been able to discover whether there are any persons now at Sattara in their design". Further, he had knowledge, that all disaffected characters were highly excited by rumours that the Ex Raja was shortly to be restored in opposition to the Government of India. "I know also" wrote Ovans, "that an active correspondence is going on between the Ex Raja

and his adherents at Sattara, Poona, and Bombay ostensible for the purpose of reporting to him the efforts at present making in England in his favour." The present selections have copies of this correspondence, testified as true translations from the original, by Ovans himself. How he came by these letters by Rangu Bapuji and others is not known. None of the rebellions disturbed the peace of Sattara or its neighbourhood seriously, but the ghost of Pratabsinh continued to haunt poor Ovans.

It more than haunted him; it disturbed his peace of mind by the continued attacks on his character, and the part he deliberately played in the ruin of the Ex Raja. He was, therefore, compelled to refute the charges against him by the Ex Raja's friends in England.

Who were these king's friends? Mr. George Thomson was the Raja's Agent in London, who prepared a very able defence by a careful study of all the relevant papers on the Sattara affairs. There is reason to believe, that he must have been paid for his labours. Captain Cogan, constantly referred to by the Ex Raja's agents in London, was another individual in whose guidance the Ex Raja had great faith, and instructed his native friends not to take a single step without his consent or guidance. That the Ex Raja sent him money, for his activity in his cause in England, is borne out by the correspondence of the native agents in England. Dr. Milne, whose letters have been given in our earlier selections on the reign of the Ex Raja, had tried to explain the Ex Raja's case to the Bombay Government, and had also tried to move Mr. Elphinstone in England on the Ex Raja's behalf. What was Milne's reward for his activity in the Ex Raja's cause?

In these select documents, there are a couple of letters regarding the sale of a ship called the 'City of Poona' to the Ex Raja, by a company in Bombay called Messrs Pollexfin Milne & Co. The Ex Raja, it appears, was being persuaded to buy the ship, most probably because of the contacts he had to form in England. On his dethronement, Shahji claimed this ship as a State property, and requested Ovans, as the Resident, to request the Shipping Company to account for the sums of money paid to them by the Ex Raja. The amount paid, over some time, totalled Rs. 80,000. These sums were paid by Rangu Bapuji and Sakharam Bapuji on behalf of the Ex Raja. "The substance of the

whole seems to have been" wrote Ovans, "that these two agents, acting as they say by Doctor Milne's advice, persuaded the Ex Raja that he ought to have a ship". The price of the ship even consumed Rs. 25,000 "sent for Rungoo Bapooji's expenses in England." Doctor Milne also advanced money and became a sharer in this ship and that, in an agreement drawn up by Suckharam Bapuji, the ship was "to be placed in the hands of Pollexfin Milne & Co., of Bombay". There is, therefore, reason to feel that Dr. Milne was not helping the Ex Raja purely out of sympathy but with some ulterior motive, some involvement in monetary transactions of the Shipping Company. To quote Ovan: "Such appear to be the leading facts of this extraordinary transaction, and as the money, viz., 80,000 rupees is clearly proved to have been sent by the Ex Raja of Sattara, it appears only just and reasonable that it should be made over to the present Raja..". Hence Ovans was of opinion, "that Suckharam Bapooji and Messrs Pollexfin Milne & Co., be called upon to render an account of 80,000 rupees," for which Ovans produced receipts Nos. 22 and 23. There was no love lost between Ovans and Milne, hence the former tried to persuade Shahji either to request the Shipping Company to honour the receipts given by them, or file a case against them in the Supreme Court in Bombay. Shahji refused to file a case or pursue the matter further and Ovan was compelled to close the issue.

I gave this incident in detail to show, that some of these so called English friends of the Ex Raja, were not willing to help him only out of sympathy for his cause. Those who took an active part did so to line their nest and quite a few gave only lip sympathy. Lodwick came forth out of qualm of conscience, but the only two, who had nothing to gain, and who spoke more out of sympathy, were Briggs and Robertson. Even Elphinstone and Grant did not lift their smallest finger to help the Ex Raja in his hour of dire need. Pratabsinh must have spent large sums of money on these so called English friends. One can only understand the agonising situation of the Ex Raja's native agents in London, when we read the letters written home by them.

Ovans, in the meantime, was busy requesting his friend Willoughby, Secretary to the Government of Bombay, to 'recover' a sum of £ 4,000, advanced by the Court of Directors to the Ex

Raja's native agents in London. These agents, in dire need of monetary help, struggling to make both ends meet, found themselves lost in a most unsympathetic world. They agreed to return home with the help given; but the most daring of them, Rangu Bapuji was determined to remain till Pratapsinh was restored to the throne of Satara. Even, when Shahji showed a willingness to return the £ 4,000 in Indian money (Rs. 40,000), Ovans wrote to Willoughby that the sum may be recovered from the Ex Raja's pension. Ovans said that the Ex Raja " through the medium of Captain Cogan and Sukaram Luxaman, a native connected with the House of Messrs Forbes and Co., " was trying to send money to England. This was, therefore, proof enough " that the Ex Raja must have funds at his disposal, and affords an additional reason for deducting the 4,000 £ advanced by the Honorable Court from his stipend, which, it will be recollected, is about 1/10th part of the whole revenue of the Sattara State". This desire to spare the revenue of Satara from monetary pressure is belied, by the fears he entertained, in another direction. The fear, that if the Raja had funds, he may continue his activity to build up a case, that might win him public sympathy in England. As it was, Ovans was being torn to shreds by speeches and papers in England. But the uproar was just momentary; the Satara affair was soon to be regarded as a nuisance, both in Parliament as well as in public. For the moment, it kept Ovans busy. He was way-laying all the Ex Raja's correspondence with his agent Rangu Bapuji in England, and was exploiting all possible means to impoverish Pratapsinh and destroy his contacts in England. " I beg leave " he wrote to Willoughby, " to take opportunity of laying before Government, the accompanying translations of letters addressed to the Ex Raja of Sattara, of the authenticity of which I have no doubt, by which it appears that one of the Wukeels of the Ex Raja is still at Malta waiting, he says there, for the arrival of Captain Cogan. It is also stated, in one of these letters, that it is the intention of Bhao (Rungo Bapoojee) to return and stay in England in conformity with the orders of the Surkar (the Ex Raja) even if the business be effected, until the return of the Swaree (the Ex Raja), so that it may be presumed from this, that any engagements entered into by this Wukeel to leave England as alluded to in the 1st paragraph of the Honorable Court's letters, are not intended to be adhered to ".

We have these letters from Rangu Bapuji to his friends, who convey to the Ex Raja what Bapuji was doing and especially suffering in the Ex Raja's cause. Seldom has any Prince met so faithful a servant. I quote a most touching passage from one of the letters from Rangu Bapuji: "I wrote to the Surkar, to yourself, and to my father that I would not return, God alone can preserve me from this disgrace – otherwise it would be better if God should make me die than to return without effecting the object in view – what is the use of communicating these numerous difficulties and troubles – it will be just as God may decree – still it is in the power of God to provide bread and water – it is my intention, even if the object be successful and I am desired to return, not to return until the Swaree of the Surkar arrives at Sattara.." It is, indeed, sad to know that this prayer was not granted. But all his plans, he wrote, "depend on the advice of the European gentlemen." But he feared that his efforts to stay in England "will occasion their displeasure" but the very determined Bapuji said, "I would not return unless the matter is effected – and after exerting myself to the utmost of my powers." And like a true oriental: "I must suffer as my stars decree.. God..and also the feet of the Khawund are mighty to remove future calamities."

Rangu Bapuji corresponded with the Ex Raja through one Raoji Bapuji who received the letters from England through Pollexfen Milne & Co. The mainstay of the Ex Raja's agitation in England were his English friends. Rangu Bapuji in England and the Ex Raja here were extremely anxious to keep these European gentlemen pleased "otherwise the same gentlemen who are now favourable will become the contrary," wrote Bapuji. Besides, the idea of approaching the Parliament and the Royal Court, was only possible with the aid of English friends. So well had the Bombay Government poisoned the authorities in England, wrote Bapuji that "whatever may be settled by the advice of Mr. Cogan Sahab will be right for the most part." The Ex Raja concurred in this opinion and through Raoji Bapuji made it known to Rangu Bapuji that "whatever may be done – the same should be carefully done by the advice of both the European Gentlemen* – and no direct course should be adopted – as this may occasion a great

* Sir Charles Forbes and Captain Cogan.

loss — and all the friends then will give it up and also get rid of it— No ground should be given for them to say that our own people were the cause of ruin..”

Pratabsinh was only too willing to spend, if his vakils wanted to approach the ministers or members of the Parliament, “a hondee to the amount of four or five thousand rupees should be given to them — and our case represented”. But all this was, of course, to be done very secretly for “such has been the custom of the Court there — where great expenses are likely to be incurred”. But what could four or five thousand rupees do? Rangu Bapuji knew that the Ex Raja’s means were very limited : “But as the Surkar possesses no means to assist or comply with such requisites, it is necessary to obtain the favour of certain European friends by expending a little money in this manner —to adopt such measures, the opinion of Mr. Cogan Saheb is necessary”. In other words English friends must be bribed. But if the Raja expects Mr. Cogan to write, and let him know the necessity of such a step, “and if a letter be required from Mr. Cogan Saheb as a document—it is not customary to grant it.” The Raja must remember, said Bapuji, that formerly he received a letter from him “in which he has given a statement of expenses..for what purposes the money is required —it cannot be mentioned distinctly”. This proves that Captain Cogan also handled some sums of money for the Raja.

Pratabsinh was told that “the Court of Directors persists in repeating that the proceedings adopted by the Bombay Government are firm—and they make their representations in different ways to support their cause—it is, therefore, necessary that the Surkar should endeavour to supply some funds at such a time as this.” He must expect no funds from his European friends, wrote Bapuji. For if that could be done, would they have borrowed 4,000 £ from the Court of Directors? He was waiting for advise from Sir Charles Forbes “to incur expenses in the Durbar (Court) in England or not”. Mr. Cogan would know what to do with the money “should the Surkar see fit to send the money—let the same be forwarded in the name of Bhao* because it could not be sent in the name of Cogan Saheb.” It appears that Cogan did not wish to be involved in any direct acceptance of funds from India, and Bapuji excused him that “if the money are for-

* Rangu Bapuji.

warded in the name of Mr. Cogen Saheb it will occasion disgrace” What Bapuji meant by the word ‘disgrace’ is difficult to understand. To meet these demands, to push on the Ex Raja’s cause in England, the sum requested was a lakh of rupees. In spite of all this toil and tears, nothing substantial came of the efforts of English friends. But the main target of their criticism was Ovans.

Ovans dare not wait for things to quieten, for even time did not heal Pratabsinh’s wound nor lessen his efforts in England to awaken, if possible, a favourable public opinion in that country. Hence Ovans knew no peace, and was harassed by the attacks on his character and conduct in the late Satara affairs. He must give replies to all that was said, or silence would be construed as the acceptance of guilt. Ovans, therefore, came out in his defence, and our selections have a number of interesting letters refuting the accusations of his enemies. How far he convinces is for the reader to judge.

Mr. G. Thompson built a powerful case for the Ex Raja in 1845, which is printed in about 250 pages. The recorded evidence, and all allied documents in the Parliamentary papers, go over 2000 pages. In the present selections from the records of the Satara Residency (about 150 Files), we have eleven lengthy documents, including the depositions of the native conspirators involved in Pratabsinh’s dethronement. These depositions may be published but the letters by Ovans in his defence may, perhaps, see here the light of day, for the first time. A patient reading of this material will be worth the pains taken.*

Ovans, tries to explain away, the accusations of Major General Lodwick against him and Willoughby, of the many crooked things done by the Commission set up to examine the Ex Raja’s guilt. Some of the charges were of wilful cruelty and humiliation inflicted on the Ex Raja. These charges were all against Ovans. It was said that he entered the Ex Raja’s chamber at the dead of the night — dragged him from his bed — and thrust him, and his cousin Balla Saheb Senapati in the same palankeen, and that the Ex Raja was very poorly clothed. That when this was done, his brother Appa Saheb was with Ovans; and that the Ex

* Read letters No. 20, 21, 22, 24-28, 32, 33, and 34.

Raja was hurried off to Benares, in such circumstances of cruelty, that Balla Saheb died on the way.

To refute these charges, Ovans said that it was broad daylight when he went to the Raja; that he remained in the courtyard of the Palace and received the Ex Raja as he came down the stairs and that he never put Pratabsinh and his cousin in the same *palankin*. This could be testified to by three other officers who were present, "or near me on this occasion". These charges were, therefore, "all and every part of them utterly false". Besides, said Ovans, the present Raja never accompanied me into the town, and was no where near the scene, when he went to the Palace. The accusation that the Ex Raja was hurried to Benares could be easily disapproved, because he remained at Nimbgaum for three months, "thus proving that he had three full months to prepare for his journey". The comfort in which he went to Benares could be proved from the expenses incurred of Rs. 80,000. The Senapati really died of apoplexy, and that his wife gave birth to a child by the wayside was not true, for a halt was made "on the confinement of that lady". "These, as far as I see, are the accusations more immediately affecting myself" wrote Ovans, "and which I again deny in the fullest and most unequivocal manner".

Ovans claimed that he had more thorough knowledge on certain other charges than any other person. These were the infraction of the treaty by the British; the Brahminical conspiracy against the Ex Raja; the proceedings of the Commission; the treatment of Govindrao Dewan; the denial of the Viceroy of Goa and the amnesty proposed to the Ex Raja.

We may here give the gist of what Ovans had to say on the above mentioned accusations. The treaty mentioned the limits of the Ex Raja's dominions, but he persisted in claiming all lands beyond the Nira river. The British denied his claims, but the authorities promised to refer his claims to England, and he was requested to await the decision. He refused to reason on this point or listen to the advice of the Resident. All the actions of the Ex Raja, thereafter, were an infringement of the treaty. To those who have read my note, in my work on Pratabsinh, may I ask, is this all that happened on the important question of the Jagirdars? Ovans's argument that brahmins had nothing to do

with the Ex Raja's dethronement could be disproved by counting the number of brahmins who witnessed against him. Ovans forgot, that it is not the number of witnesses that matter, but what they say, and the part played by them in the trial that really matters. Regarding the proceedings of the Commission, the charge that it entertained, "secret and anonymous" evidence and admitted evidence that was perjured and refused to cross examine witnesses, Ovans said, "I ask any honest man, who has read these proceedings, whether they do bear out such accusations as these?". The Commission insisted on knowing the name of every witness and took his evidence "in his own person before them and on his oath". Ovans would not believe that the Subedars were perjured witnesses, because the European officers on their oath, "gave these Subedars the highest character". And in anger, Ovans asks, "do these petitioners mean therefore to infer that all this testimony is false..?" Yet in the same breath "as to the bramin Untajee what do the Commissioners themselves say? "that he (Untajee) was guilty of the grossest prevarication and that no weight whatever had been attached to his uncorroborated testimony". And now, may we ask, that if Antaji's evidence was so totally rejected, why were the Subedars, copartners in the same evidence, deeply involved in the same plot, believed? I suppose because European officers gave the Subedars the "highest character". Ovans is shocked that the petitioners dared to state that "the accusations against the Ex Raja rested on these persons' unsupported testimony". Because the question now was, that if Antaji's evidence was rejected, then what the Subedars said remained untestified. And we know, what they said was something a child would not believe, said General Briggs. In passing, we might mention, that the brain of this conspiracy was a brahmin,

It was said, that these "principal native officers" of the "highest character" looked confused, and the appearance of one of them, when giving evidence, "was that of a ghost". It appears, according to Ovans, the veracity of a witness depends on the length of his evidence. For, the principal witness "was ten hours under examination" and ended with cheers from the commission, in which Ovans said, Lodwick clapped the loudest. And the Commission recorded that they "deem it right to record

that Sew Goolamsing's evidence occupied ten hours, and that it was delivered in a straightforward, collected and intelligent manner, the witness several times observing that he had spoken nothing but the truth *although he might have narrated events somewhat out of order in which they exactly occurred**." Why should this very 'straightforward' witness wish to repeatedly observe that he was speaking the truth, or narrate the events out of order, we will leave our readers to judge. Of the three witnesses, Lodwick observed, that one looked like a 'ghost'. Ovans runs to the rescue of the 'ghost', that if it was so, it was due to this officer's recent illness, and Lodwick should "in candor and common honesty" have mentioned this circumstance. While Lodwick wishes to convey that the witness was completely unnerved with fear, Ovans, fully conscious of this fact, tries to cover it up by excuse of "severe illness". As to the cross-examination of the witness, Ovans claims, that the proceedings of the Commission bear out "that these native officers were cross-examined...under strictest precautions". Yet, just a couple of lines later, in the paragraph, doubtful, whether he was himself satisfied, he says: "the reasons, too, for not subjecting the Native Officers to a more searching cross-examination are given on the face of the proceedings..." He then blames Lodwick, that if he was not satisfied, "why did he not himself carry on the cross-examination?" He was the President of the Commission and, therefore, more particularly responsible "he was clearly guilty of a gross dereliction of duty". So was Ovans, a member of the Commission also.

On the charge of the cruel confinement of the Dewan Govindrao "without charge and without trial"; his solitary confinement in the fort of Ahmednager; the information of his mother's effort to have her son released; the false statements taken from her which were forgeries, and on the basis of which Ovans tried to put fresh accusations against the Ex Raja — Ovans said, that all these charges were false. He was fully convinced that the Dewan was involved in trying to corrupt the Native officers; that his removal to Ahmednager was necessary because Govindrao was anxious to confess, and he (Ovans) wanted those disclosures before a judicial officer "who knew nothing of these transactions..

* Italics are mine.

my only object was truth." Ovans said, (without taking the least trouble to prove) that there were intrigues set afoot by the Ex Raja to get Govindrao released, and was sending large sums of money to Poona for that purpose. And in the midst of these accusations: "I had no hostility to the Ex Raja. He never, I believe, accused me of any." He says nothing of his discovery, that the statements given to him under the name of Govindrao's mother, were forgeries confessed to by one Krishnaji Bhide. A conspiracy in which Nathu was deeply involved. Both Bhide and Nathu are brahmins for Ovans's information. On this issue not a word did Ovans utter in his defence. He just did not raise that issue, of which Thompson made a lot of by accusing Ovans, that he kept that knowledge a secret for a full year. And yet he dares to write: "For, the confession of Govindrao fully confirmed his own guilt and that of his master —, and this I suppose is the reason why so much odium is attempted to be thrown on these proceedings."

Ovans had bought certain forged documents involving the Ex Raja with the Viceroy of Goa. The Viceroy when approached had called these documents "utter forgeries". What had Ovans to say? "This unsupported assertion of an accomplice, however, can only be taken for what it is worth. It cannot invalidate all the other evidence." But what was all the other evidence? Those who perpetrated these forgeries of both the documents and the seals, had confessed to their sin. In his defence, Ovans says, twenty four witnesses cannot be prejudured. Who were those witnesses and what did they say? Further, the bankers' books showed the money spent in this intrigue and all other letters which had been verified by writers. But to crown this defence the Viceroy's signature, said Ovans, and its genuineness was proved from his signature in the Bombay Records. Later, the Ex Raja was accused of a conspiracy with Russia and Turkey.

The Ex Raja had, therefore, exposed himself to the sacrifice of British alliance and its protection. This is what Ovans felt. Finally: "Now can any unprejudiced man read the evidence and say this is not a fact". Even if every portion of that evidence were rejected that was in the least questionable, Ovans was sure that enough remained to justify the Raja's guilt. Yet the very generous Government was willing to forget the past if the Ex

Raja only promised that he will not repeat the errors again. A few 'don'ts' were prescribed in the Amnesty Treaty. What did they mean—nothing ! Pratabsinh was only to accept the guilt. How could he ? Pratabsinh refused this generous Amnesty and lost his throne. How foolish, said Ovans.

There is ample reason to believe, that Lodwick, Ovans' predecessor as Resident, was deeply implicated in the plot to dethrone Pratabsinh. That he fell out with Sir Robert Grant and was replaced by Ovans, commissioned to depose the Raja, there is no doubt. That for some time, prior to his removal, Lodwick had loaned his conscience to Grant, Willoughby, and Ovans. After some time the three guilty men began to feel uncomfortable in Lodwick's company. Lodwick began to speak the language of conscience. This feeling grew, and returning home, smarting because of his removal as Resident, under the false pretext of his ill health, Lodwick began a regular campaign to expose the three guilty men. Lodwick's hands were anything but clean. And hence his evidence must be examined with care. But Lodwick had openly confessed his regret to the Court of Directors for the part he had played against Pratabsinh. Sir Robert Grant died and Lodwick had only Ovans and Willoughby to contend with. This he did by bitterly attacking his erstwhile colleagues both at the India House and in the newspapers.

Besides, the accusations already examined, Lodwick made other declarations that Ovans had to refute. He was not only dissatisfied with the cross-examination but the evidence was "ready prepared", meaning thereby, said Ovans, that this was done without his knowledge ; and worst still, he complained that he was "pressed" to sign the Commission's Report against his conviction. That he had declared the Commission's Report as "utterly worthless", and that he had only signed it "in obedience to" the positive instructions of Sir Robert Grant. These are, indeed, serious charges against his colleagues.

As to the first of these charges, that the evidence was ready prepared and that he was pressed to sign, Ovans says, in defence of the Commission, that a rough draft of the report was first prepared "Major General Lodwick being present and presiding there in his usual place". This draft was carefully read over, the opinion of every member taken on every point of differ-

ence, " and a fair copy of this report, framed so as to meet the unanimous opinion of the Commission, was then written out and read and signed. . " If this was so, Lodwick has no ground for complaint. Major General Lodwick's remark that the report was " utterly worthless," Ovans said, " I do not recollect ". Ovans is right when he raises this question : " If Major General Lodwick thought this report so " worthless ", may it not be fairly asked how did it happen to bear his signature ? His reason was he was instructed to sign the report by none other than the Governor. Ovans said, that a man like Sir Robert Grant, so religiously scrupulous, could never order any person to sacrifice his principles in this way. Lodwick said, that a " paper of hints " was sent by Sir Robert Grant to him. Ovans was asked to produce it. He said, that he had searched the records thoroughly but found no such paper of ' hints '. " If such a paper ", wrote Ovans, " was therefore sent to General Lodwick, it must evidently have been of a very private and confidential nature, and if so, I leave it to Government and Honorable Court to decide whether such confidence should have been so shamelessly abused". But what was this confidence ? Was Lodwick asked to sign the report ?

But even if we take the most extreme view that Lodwick was pressed to sign the report, it was not necessary to do so, as Lodwick, who was Resident at Satara and President of the Commission, could have turned down such a request and dared them to do their worst. There is, therefore, every reason to believe that Lodwick went a long way with the others when he fell out and became more than critical of the conduct of his colleagues. Ovans repeatedly quotes Lodwick's letters, written to the Government of Bombay, highly critical of the Ex Raja's conduct, and points out, that it was he who began to encourage Sir Robert Grant to take the first steps against the Ex Raja. Lodwick confessed that this was true but he never expected the events to take the twist they did so as to spell the Ex Raja's ruin. He said that he would not take the devious path, taken by the Governor and his friends, hence came the parting of ways. There is no denying the fact that Ovans held the trump card : " But whether President or not *, did he not sign that report under a conviction of the Raja's guilt, for that is the real question at issue. If he then thought him guilty why does he

* Lodwick said he was not the President of the Commission.

now retract ? If he did not, why did he in April 1837 recommend to Sir Robert Grant to punish him, as he himself states in his letter of the 9th October 1840 to the Court of Directors ". Lodwick was undoubtedly in a difficult situation.

We will not exhaust the reader by further discussions of such issues. A careful reading of the letters, in this selections, are very interesting material. But before we close this question, there are the depositions of the native conspirators who have confessed to their guilt. How far they can stand the test of a cross-examination by a good counsel is a matter of doubt to me.

Mr. G. Thompson had read out the deposition of the natives highly criminating, and as Ovans said, "reflecting most atrociously" on his character, before a special meeting of the General Court of Proprietors. All the native conspirators had made a clean breast of the plot hatched and the forged documents. The depositions give all the details but we need not enter into those. But while confessing how the documents were prepared, the seals stolen, who possessed the letters, how the documents changed hands and who wrote them, the most important question, as in all crime, what was the motive must be answered first. The motive was a very handsome reward for the preparation of these forged documents criminating the Ex Raja. What was this reward and by whom promised ? The reward was, said all the conspirators, "a jageer of ten thousand rupees, and a reward of fifty thousand rupees and also a pension of five thousand rupees per mensem would be caused to be settled on us and that until the business was effected nothing would be obtained." The reward of fifty thousand was changed to a lakh of rupees by some conspirators. Who were the persons involved in giving this promise ? Ballaji Punt Nathu, Ballaji Kasi Kibey, and the Residents Lodwick and Ovans. Ballaji Kasi Kibey was the Native Assistant to the Resident. When Nathu and Kibey approached these conspirators, most of whom were engaged in varied capacity in the Ex Raja's service, they gave a willing ear, but could only be persuaded into the crime, provided the promise for the reward was guaranteed by some more well placed persons in the Company's service than Nathu and Kibey. The promise given by Nathu and Kibey was confirmed, said the conspirators, by the Residents, first, Lodwick and later Ovans.

One of the conspirators*, Anna Sindkur alias Atmaram Luximan, wrote in his deposition : " Upon this, he desired me to cause some letters to be drawn out by one of the Maharaj's kamgars containing treasonable circumstances—and said that he would cause me to be satisfied by Lodwick Saheb on the subject. To which I agreed and went to the fort to visit Lodwick Saheb. The Saheb then told me that I might without entertaining doubt do according to the suggestion that would be made to me by Ballaji Punt Kibbay and that an arrangement would be made for me through the Company Surkar. Such was the assurance given to me by the Saheb..." [In the same deposition a little later : " Subsequently Lodwick Saheb was succeeded by Ovans Saheb when I was sent for and taken to the bungalow where Ballajee Kassee Kibey and Ballajee Narrian Nattoo were sitting." Here Anna Sindkur was given the assurance once again as that given by Lodwick earlier.

Ovans claims that these depositions were given to Sir James Carnac, the Governor, in his presence by the Ex Raja. And they remained in his possession given by Sir James Carnac to report upon. Hence no mischief was possible with these depositions. Ovans said : " the translations annexed to these Mahratta papers may be compared with the depositions read by Mr. G. Thompson, this will at once afford undeniable proof of the falsification of the documents". He then goes on to state that the statement of 16th November 1838 by Hybutrao is different from that of the 23rd November 1838 in so far that in the latter deposition " the translation of which is now forwarded, my name is not even mentioned." Ovans, therefore, claimed that Thompson read depositions that were deliberately falsified. " It is scarcely necessary for me to add " he wrote, " that I am so confident of General Lodwick's innocence of this atrocious accusation as I am of my own." How was it possible that they could be privy to " so shameless a proceeding." Unless we compare the English and Marathi translations we are in no position to arrive at any conclusion.

Though Ovans wants to impress the Government and the friends of the Raja that he is not his enemy, there is ample evidence to show that he never wished the Raja well, nor did he see

* The conspirators were : Hybotrao, Bulwunt Seerkar Kaney, Anna Sindkur, Janoo bin Krustnaje Bhandaree, and others.

any good in the man. He was not even willing to give the Raja his due. Even though the Company had sent him a sword in acknowledgement of his excellent administration, and all the previous Residents were full of praise of his ability to govern, this is what Ovans had to say : " When I arrived here, the Civil business was entirely in the hands of men who assisted the Ex Raja in his intrigues against the Government. These men were notoriously corrupt — the Ex Raja was in their power — and suits were decided and reversed in the most shameless manner. The Criminal business was also neglected — the jails being full of prisoners untried, the sequestration of all the jageers great and small within his territory.. had fallen under his management.. " These jagirs had fallen under his management because of the debts incurred by the jagirdars, and the very able and just administration by the Ex Raja received the highest praise from the then Resident*. But again what has Ovans to say of those Residents? " But dissensions arisen between him (Ex Raja) and General Briggs ended in the retirement of that officer. General Robertson, it is said, never interfered or listened to any complaints, and General Lodwick did worse than nothing, insomuch as, his interference only proved to irritate the Ex Raja — and thus all wholesome restraint being at an end, all good government was at an end also." In other words, nothing of note happened till this wisdom on two legs arrived. And things only began to improve when his stooge Shahji ascended the throne. Of course, he could not brush aside completely the few good things Pratabsinh had done, but even these, he attributed to " the naturally fertile country itself " and whatever prosperity there had been was due to the early management by Captain Grant. But as these rules of management were followed for some time by the Ex Raja — " for this he certainly deserves praise. "

When Shahji ascended the throne, according to the new terms of the Treaty, he was deprived of all control over the jagirdars. His revenue for 1841/42 was Rs. 13,86,800 while the expenditure amounted to Rs. 13,98,800 the excess therefore of charges over receipts was Rs. 12,000. But no debt would be necessary as this excess could be liquidated from the balance of the last year. These selections also give, in like manner, the

* See Raja Pratabsinh of Satara (1818-1836) Ed: by R. D. Choksey

receipts and expenditure for the same year of all the jagirs also. The building activity of the last reign was carried on by Shahji and quite a few works of public utility were constructed. Among the major works were two bridges over the Yena and the Kistna rivers. Both were on the highroad from Satara to Poona. The next was an aqueduct to bring water to the town of Satara and there was a plan of a bund at Mahableshtar. Among the public works of lesser magnitude, some were completed and others were in process of completion. The Raja had undertaken the construction of a Town Hall; a new hospital; a new Lines for the Local Corps; new roads and highroad from Satara to Poona; and also travellers' bungalows on the highroad from Belgaum to Poona. His subjects were also indebted to His Highness for such works as reservoirs, well, etc., built in Satara, as well as, the surrounding country.

In the annual Report for the next year 1842/43, there was a balance in the budget of Rs. 7,854. There was a distinct fall in all arrears of public business. There was an improvement in the number of urzees; appeals in both civil and criminal cases were executed with efficiency and quickness; and trials were disposed off with ease. Ovans says : " This, I think, affords satisfactory proof that His Highness the Raja continues to conduct the affairs of his Government with zeal, judgments, and discretion." In an inspection of His Highness's Local Corps, the Commander-in-Chief was happy to report " of its efficiency and discipline". The hospital continued its good work among both the indoor and outdoor patients and in the children's vaccination. It was appreciated by all classes. His Highness was interested in education. But the people showed little or no inclination to have their children taught English. For education in Marathi, the people preferred the old established schools in the town. The standard of literacy must have been good, for Ovans reported that, " these schools seem to work well, as there is scarcely a person amongst the better classes here, who cannot read and write readily, and by sending their children at a very early age to write in public offices, they speedily acquire an insight into public business.." And what is all this educational preparation for " their future duties as karkoos in the various departments of Government." The manufacture of " baboos " had begun.

In the same Annual Report, a short account of a similar nature of revenue, history, etc., of each of the jagirs is also mentioned. We have also in the statement for 1841/42 an account of receipts and expenditure for all the jagirs*. The account given of the administration of the jagirdars, though critical, is very satisfactory. Ovans wrote : "On the whole, I think, I may safely report to Government that the revenues of these jageerdars are in an improving state. The small number of petitions, too, received this year against the jageerdars (only about ninety) seem to argue that on the whole their affairs are justly and mercifully administered, and although no great public improvement are going on, still, that their subjects generally are in good condition." When their financial conditions improve, they must be persuaded to keep aside from their revenues sums of money to be utilised, said Ovans, for such purposes as roads, wells, dharmashalas and other public works.

Besides the progress of public works, on which Shahji spent lavishly,** he had introduced reforms in other directions also. The Raja had placed transit duties on the same footing as they were in other British territories. This, with the improvement of roads and construction of bridges, improved internal trade of the country. The Bombay Government was pleased, at the efforts made in Satara, to introduce the Company's rupee. Gradually the Chandor rupee was to be replaced, and, Ovans wrote, that he was happy "to report that the present market value of the Company's rupee is $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent above that of the Chandor rupees." What was really troublesome was the copper currency, which as compared with the Company's pice, was cheaper and plentiful. The only way, in which this could be met, was that the Government by extensive purchases of the old pice could bring it down to the same level as the Company's pice. The boundary disputes were

* For the year 1841/42

	Receipts	Charges	
	Rs.	Rs.	
Akulkote	1,32,969	1,25,455	+7,514
Punt Suchoo	84,194	84,194	—
Pritty Niddy	65,906	65,906	—
Jath	51,181	56,238	-5,057
Phultun	67,586	70,765	-3,179

** See letter No. 51 for the list of Public Works carried out and the expenditure.

another problem, but Ovans suggested that they should appoint, at the earliest opportunity, an officer from the survey department to look into this matter. It was deserving of prompt attention. Buying and selling of slaves was abolished by the Raja by a proclamation on 10th July 1841. The slavery, when it existed, was of a mild nature—it was something of domestic bondage. In the last twenty years, the total number of slaves sold was about 262, of which 39 were boys and the rest girls. And they ranged between 3 to 20 years. This statistics does not include the jagirs. Ovans reported that the practice of sati was rampant under Raja Pratabhsinh. “It is impossible to say how many suttees had previously occurred here. But, I fear, the number must have been considerable...” Sati was now abolished, not only in Satara State, but in the jagirs also. Ovans had not of late heard of a single case nor was there any dissatisfaction “among any class of people”. In the midst of these commendable activities, Ovans felt, that the Raja’s love of public works may place him, some time in the future, in pecuniary difficulties. And another drawback was his love of paying attention to all affairs of the State personally, which might result in arrears of public business mounting up in course of time. Yet Ovans was of opinion that in spite of some drawbacks the system of Native Government was “well suited to the habits and feelings of the people”.

Besides the Native Force, consisting of 822 men mounted and armed, there were a body of 3,878 sibundies armed with sword and matchlocks, who performed the usual duties of collecting the revenues, guarding the treasures, escorting the prisoners, etc. There was also a body of men, about 1,675 called sitbundies a species of local militia, who were liable to be called out, in case the Government saw any occasion for their services. These men were only paid when called on duty but were assigned some land. They were useful when garrisoning forts, or in time of war they were valuable auxiliaries.

For the purposes of policing the country, Satara was divided into fourteen districts or pettas, over each of these was a mamlatdar entrusted with both the revenue and police management of his district. Under him were a certain number of inferior officers called shekdars, who, in like manner had the same functions to

perform (police and revenue) of their village and who were entirely under the mamlatdars.

In the villages the patels and rukwaldars had the charge of the police and of their respective villages; while it was the business of the rukwaldars to trace all robberies to the adjoining villages or to make good the lost property. This was the system followed since time immemorial throughout the country, and Ovans said, judging from its effects on general peace and security of life and property, the system had stood the test of time.

A shekdar when appointed was furnished with a correct list of villages, their revenues, present state, agreements with the farmers, etc., and in addition, he was instructed by the mamlatdar, as to the character of the patell, and what village officers were most trustworthy. At the commencement of the season of cultivation, the shekdar visited the village, gave encouragement to the ryot, and sent to the mamlatdar the monthly account of the progress of cultivation and crops. The mamlatdar, from all such information, prepared an abstract which he sent to the Hoozoor, or the main administrative office at Satara.

The shekdar for his revenue duties was given the aid of two sebundies, who went with him to the village to obtain all necessary information. To learn of the state of cultivation, the shekdar moved about constantly. The time required for the visit to the village, depended upon how large or small the village was, but he had to be unremitting and vigilant in his inquiry and exertion, and to keep the mamlatdar informed of his visits.

The shekdar was particularly watchful, and prevented the patell from levying any unauthorised exactions on any pretence, and prevented them giving good lands at inferior rates, or appropriating lands in any way to their own use, or that of their friends or relations. For these malpractices the villagers often tried to bribe the shekdars. When money was allotted for takavi, the shekdar was careful to see that the whole amount was paid to the villager concerned, and kept a watch on the sum loaned to see how it was spent. The amount loaned was for stock, implements, seeds, etc.

The mamlatdar sent in all the accounts of the cultivation. He visited every villiage four times every season, and kept himself

thoroughly informed, so that he could help the revenue collector in concluding the general assessment. He, besides, furnished the sirsubedar with whatever information he called forth, and executed all his suggestions.

The sirsubedar supervised the duties of the mamlatdar, and saw that his orders were punctually attended to. The kutchery of each mamlatdar was periodically inspected by the sirsubedar, and all persons unfit or negligent of duty were reported to the Hoozoor and eventually removed.

The authorised revenue in His Highness' territories was collected under two general heads viz., the land revenue and the extra revenue. The land revenue, under a variety of tenures, * required particular attention in the villages, where various claims existed. Where the Government had smaller claims, the mamlatdars realised the amount according to the proportion which was paid by the village, either through the amildar, or according to custom prevailing in the village. The mamlatdars were careful to state the amount collected, and to realise the revenue according to the way the land was cultivated, i. e., whether irrigated, garden, dry, etc.

The extra revenue came from a variety of sources, viz., mohoturfa (house tax) and taxes on trade, shops, and in some cases castes, or in other words, from all people other than cultivators residing in towns or within their range; pasturage and gross land customs, intoxicating drugs and spirits, and various other items which were granted in contract **. Most of these extras were worked out on as fair and equitable basis as possible.

The settlement of revenue by Government was guided by accounts obtained, by a watchful superintendence by local officers, and the final general assessment was done by patells, shekdars and zamindars by their local knowledge, and the state of the village, and proportion of the assessment to the actual state of things, so that all villages bore an equal and just share of Government dues. When this was duly fixed, the Government entered into an agreement with the patel, through the other officers as to what was

* Sirdeshmuki; Huzurmamla; Jeelhe; Mokassa; Sahotree; Kussur; Panchutra, etc.

** Nuklabab; Enam; Tigae; Sadilwarid; Patachepance etc.

expected of his village, and the patell in return entered into an agreement with each of his villagers by granting a *patta* stamped by Government, as to what he had to pay. These *pattas* were sent by the mamlatdar to the Hoozoor where they were recorded, and sent back to the villager through the patel.

The land revenue was to be paid very punctually in specified instalments, customary in the country. The villagers stood guarantee for the payment of the revenue, and should one of them fail to pay, his dues were borne by the proportional distribution on the village; in the same way, when the village could not pay, the whole district or mahal became responsible. When revenue was realised in kind, it was the mamlatdar, who was to estimate the value of the produce, and fix the Government share at a fair average quantity.

Such were the administrative conditions prevailing under both Pratabsinh and his brother Shahji. The above account illustrates very briefly the principles of administration of the Satara State as laid down by Captain Grant. The main structure continued, as in the days gone by, but much abuse had crept in, for example, the farming system (to auction land revenue to the highest bidder), cesses multiplied beyond endurance, corruption rampant at all stages, etc., etc. These glaring defects were removed and justice and equity sought to replace them.

Shahji was survived by three wives but none of them bore him any children. In these select documents, we have an invitation from Shahji to the Governor and other officials to attend his two marriages. The invitation was sent on the 7th April 1844 for the first marriage on 30th April, and the second on 4th May 1844. The first bride was the daughter of Luxmanrao Rajey Sheerkey and the other of Keertsing Rajey Shirkey. The wedding was attended by Ovans whose presence was acknowledged and thanked on the 8th May 1844. Shahji was equally profuse in his admiration of Ovans. What an excellent Resident he made: "The Resident Saheb Bahadoor has attended the marriage procession and acted so as to increase our dignity in general, in which he has given us inexpressible satisfaction. The Resident Saheb Bahadoor is an excellent experienced officer. And by his advice the friendship with the British Government is always on the increase."

In March 1848, Shahji became suddenly very ill. For some time, he had taken under his protection, a boy of obscure birth,

whom he called Balvantrao Bhonsle. Pratabsinh had also adopted a boy from the Kolhapur branch but Shahji would not have him. As Shahji worsened and his illness grew he sent for, the then Resident, Mr. later Sir Bartle Frere of South African fame. He was known to have tried to persuade Mr. Frere to accept the adoption of Balvantrao. But the Resident refused to accept a boy of so low a birth as Shahji's successor. Shahji, therefore, said, that if his condition still worsened, he would adopt the boy and trust British generosity to recognise the adoption. His condition worsened on 5th April 1848, and Frere, who was then in Mahableshwar, had to be sent for. But in the meantime Shahji, now on his death bed, called the Civil Surgeon, Dr. Murray, and dictated in Marathi which Murray took down in English, a memorandum of adoption which designated Balvantrao as Venkaji Raja.

Mr. Frere reached Satara about 10 O'clock at night. He convened a meeting of all persons who mattered in the royal household. He told them that the decision of the Supreme Government, regarding the adoption and succession, must be awaited. Till then, the Government at Satara, would be conducted by the same agency as before under the Resident's control. Just a week after the Raja's death, Frere wrote to the Government, that no decision was fraught with so much importance as the future of the Satara State. A change from monarchy to any other form of Government would effect the destiny of thousands, viz., 10,000 persons were supported directly by salaries from the Court and most of these had many dependents. Besides, the emotional effect on the people at large, would be great, at the passing away of the dynasty of the founder of the Maratha power — Shivaji.

The Satara Residency Records in the Daftar has unfortunately no papers on the above incidents that preceded or immediately followed Shahji's death. There is an anonymous petition to the Governor, blaming the Resident and certain individuals for the loss of money and valuables, immediately following the death of the Raja. The petition stated, that the Resident was careless, in not having closed all the rooms in which valuables and gold was deposited, on the Raja's death. And even when informed, did not take immediate steps to prevent certain individuals from making the most of the situation. In spite of what Ovens had to say about Shahji's character, both the Petitioner and the Resi-

dent are agreed that he was in the company of a most undesirable man, who was his favourite — Govinda Yekbotia. It was this man, who took Oomabai (the Raja's dependent referred to previously) into his confidence, and committed theft of both gold and valuables.

The Resident on receiving this petition from Government, wrote a report, pointing out what steps were taken on the news of the Raja's death, and how efforts were made to secure the rooms where the treasures were kept. That the Raja's servants were very faithful, and all charges of embezzlement or efforts to falsify accounts, were untrue. The Resident explained how public accounts were kept, and how impossible it was for any individual, to either lift money or falsify accounts. Therefore, he saw " no reason whatsoever to suspect the parties concerned of embezzlement as charged in the petition." Even the loss of gold bars, and the false claim by Oomabai Tarkuscen, were pointed out by the officers of the late Raja. The key to the room, where the box containing Rs. 22,700 was kept, was betrayed by the jamadar Patloba. Both he and Govinda were immediately imprisoned. Oomabai confessed that her claim was false, but the missing gold bars were not recovered. Yekbotia, besides his part in theft with Oomabai, was also charged, said the Resident, " of extorting money under pretence of using his influence to bias the decisions of His Highness. Every available source of information regarding his misdeeds has been consulted, as it presented itself, and, as the public servants of His Highness and little goodwill towards an overbearing and very unpopular favorite, the Resident does not think that much trustworthy information has been withheld from him." These were the type of men and women invariably found in Shahji's company.

The Petitioner*, had also tried to involve a few other servants of the Raja, on a variety of other charges. But the Resident wrote, after a careful inquiry: " It is only just the great body of public servants of the late Raja to say, that the inquiries which the Resident has made have left on his mind a most favourable impression of their fidelity to their late master, and of the general correctness of their public conduct in their several stations." I wonder, if it

* Letter No. 35 of 31st July 1848 by the Bombay Government accepted the Resident's explanation.

would be right to say, that most of the success of Shahji's reign was due to the faithful services of his public spirited servants.

In the time of Major J. Outram as Resident there is, in these selections, a letter in which Shahji accused his Dewan as implicated in a murder ; and the Raja's insistence to carry out an investigation, which the Dewan willingly accepted. But since this incident was not referred to in any other papers in the records, we know nothing further about this affair. Beyond this incident, there appears to be nothing to show, that either Pratabsinh nor his brother had anything to complain of against their public servants. This devotion to service, said Mr. Frere, was also due to the admirable system of business introduced by Captain Grant and carried on by the Raja ; but the greatest part of the credit went to " a kind of fidelity on the part of the public servants to their master and to their office, of which the Resident has seen a few examples ".

The Raja died on 5th April 1848, and even though the Dussera festival approached in October, the succession question remained unsettled. This festival, wrote Frere in September 1848, was regarded " a very important one in the civil polity of the Mahrattas ". The Dussera was an occasion, when from the highest feudatory to the smallest subtenant of the sovereign, made it a point to attend. It was both a religious and secular festival. The secular observances were connected with the Durbars and processions which all ended with certain religious rites and ceremonies. The procession was the most picturesque part of the festival, when all the Sardars took their positions, in the presence of the Raja, according to the feudal rights they enjoyed in the heirarchy. It was an occasion when all disputes were ironed out in which Chiefs or their followers were involved. Even the Residents were known to take this opportunity, to enable the Chiefs to answer or listen to complaints without, what the Chiefs considered, the humiliating practice of going to the common Courts of Law. Thus, Mr. Frere tried to impress on the Bombay Government, the importance of this festival.

Such an occasion now approaching, and with no Raja on the throne, was to the Resident a very embarrassing situation. Perhaps the secular part of the ceremony could be tolerated with

the Resident acting the part of the king. But what of the religious rites and ceremonies? which were even more important than the secular Durbars and processions. Every one was anxious to know how this problem would be solved. Should the festival be cancelled for this year — this perhaps would be more objectionable to the people—the British might be misunderstood, feared the Resident with serious consequences. He, therefore, suggested that the Raja may be replaced by his widows, who, seated behind a screen, would receive all the nuzzurs and omit the nuzzur usually made to the Raja. They would head the procession and perform the *pooja* and receive their share of the salutes. The Maratha Sardars would not object, for, in the absence of the master, this was customary. The Governor could also send his gifts to the ranis and even receive some from them. This would maintain the present reserve of the British Government, and neither disallow nor acknowledge the adoption of His late Highness. Regarding the fear of giving a false impression on the question of adoption, Frere wrote: "I have steadily refused all suggestions to recognise him in any particular, however trifling, in any other position, and however mortifying my refusal. I believe its obvious propriety has always been acquiesced in by those concerned."

Mr. Frere, instructed by Government, was to inform the jagirdars, that as the succession was not as yet settled, "it will be impossible to determine on the manner in which this annual festival should be conducted." And, therefore, they were not to attend, and the Ranis to be told, that to avoid, perhaps a mortifying situation, the Chiefs were requested not to come because "the position of the boy, adopted by their late husband, is yet undetermined." Yet, if the ranis insisted to perform the ceremonies, Mr. Frere was to tell them "that no honors are to be admitted to them that can be construed in any way into a pledge on the part of Government, to recognise the separate existence of the Sattara State." The Resident was also charged with the responsibility of making the Government's policy known to the people.

Mr. Frere wrote back to say, that though the ranis were disappointed with the news conveyed by the Resident, they expressed their confidence "that whatever was ordered by the British

Government was for the best." Frere advised the ranis, "that the period of mourning for their husband, would be according to custom, a sufficient reason to assign for the omission of any ceremony, however imperative under ordinary circumstances." He assured the Government that he would explain the situation to the people in Satara also. The ranis accepted Mr. Frere's advice to give the period of mourning as not yet over, hence no festivity for Dessara that year was possible. They played into the hands of the Resident and saved him and the Government from a highly embarrassing situation. All that these simple ranis wanted was the permission to exchange the **poshak** (dress of honour) customary between the Governor and themselves. Even this permission was very tardily given, under a definite understanding, that the ranis must be told, that the interchange of presents was in no way connected "with any attribute of sovereignty," and further that the exchange of **poshak** was "under a strict understanding that this was not to be regarded as a precedent for future years."

Mr. Frere heaved a sigh of relief in his letter of 10th October 1848, "that the Dussera and its contingent holidays passed off without accident or disturbances of any kind, and that all classes returned to their avocations." There was a good supply of rain all over the districts and people were contented and quiet. Let us drop the curtain on this note of contentment and quiet—the quiet of the grave for the dynasty of Shivaji, for, on 1st May 1849, news came to Satara that this independent Kingdom was no more. The last of the great Shivaji's descendants consigned to the flames which closed the story of Satara.

No. 1. Death of Senapati Balla Sahib on his way to Benares with the Ex Raja of Satara. (From F. Cristall to the Resident at Indore.)

27 January 1840

Sir,

I have the honor to report that Balla Sahib, late minister of the Ex Raja of Sattara, died this day at 3 O'clock p. m. By the urgent request of the Ex Raja I have consented to halt at this place during tomorrow and the next day 28th and 29th inst. The camp will resume its march on the morning of the 30th inst.

No. 2. News of serious condition of the Senapati and request to halt. At first Lieutenant Cristall refused to halt. The Senapati died. No possibility of substituting another body in place of the Senapati's. Cristall made sure. He consented to halt to allow all the religious rites for two days. The Raja submitted a yad to be sent to the Bombay Government. (From F. Cristall to C. Ovals, Resident at Satara)

28th January 1840

Sir,

I have the honor to report that Balla Sahib Synaputty died yesterday at 3 O'clock p.m. He had been unwell it appears a few hours before leaving our last ground but I received no intelligence until yesterday midday when several of the Raja's people visited me requesting me a halt as the Synaputty was in so dangerous a state that he could not be moved. I gave a denial to the request imagining it only an excuse for loitering on the road, knowing by experience how great is the dislike to our system of continuing the journey on which we are bound. The tents etc., which are daily sent in advance, were accordingly despatched, but at 3 O'clock the karkoon and others of the Raja's people came to me with the news of the Synaputty's death—every arrangement was immediately made for a funeral pile and in a little more than an hour the body was taken away to be burnt. There was no deceit in substituting another person's body for the Senaputty's as I saw the face of the deceased on his being conveyed to the pile. The distress of the Ex Raja and his family is extreme, and I have consented to halt here for two days for the purpose of permitting some ceremonies (which are considered absolutely necessary) to be performed. The camp will continue its march on the morning of the 3rd inst.

I beg to forward two Mahratta yads from the Ex Raja. The one regarding the Synaputty's family I told him, would, I expected, be of no use but he urged me sending it and I have accordingly done so.

No. 3. Report on the number of the Raja's followers to Benares. All arrangements, so far, very satisfactory. The table of the daily supplies to maintain the camp. (From F. Cristall to C. Fraser, Agent to the Governor General).

8th March 1840

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th ultimo which reached me only on the evening of the 7th inst. at Myhur, and in reply, I beg to inform you that the number of persons, including the Ex Raja's relatives and followers and the military escort amount to 2,700 persons — the cattle consist of camels

250

horses and tatoos 500

bullocks 600

elephants 3

The quantities of supplies daily required for the above men and cattle is as per the table.

We have hitherto been well furnished with every requisite and I have found the Thakoors and other natives of authority exceedingly attentive and obliging to us throughout these Provinces, and I hope the same accommodating spirit will be found as we advance. I have written to the Collector at Mirzapoor advising him of our approach but I fear the above details of supplies daily required, will hardly reach you until the Raja's camp has progressed thro' your district.

Daily Supplies

	Candies	Maunds	Seers
Wheat flour	2	"	"
Rice	"	10	"
Dal	"	10	"
Gram	2½	"	"
Gram flour	"	1	"
Salt	"	4	"
Tea (?)	"	"	10
(?)	"	10	"
Firewood	6	"	"
(?)	"	10	"
Oil	"	10	"
Tobacco	"	5	"
Supare (?)	"	1	"
(?) for cattle	"	5	"
Grass 7000 maunds			

No. 4. Lieutenant Cristall gives all details of the Senapati's illness and death. His efforts to persuade the Senapati's people to accept medical attention and their refusal. Route of the Ex Raja's journey to Benares. (From F. Cristall to C. Ovans).

12th March 1840

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th ult. with its annexed extract of a letter from Mr. Secretary Willoughby under date 21st January 1840 observing that when informed of the illness of the late Balla Sahib Senapatti, Lieut. Cristall should have offered to send the medical officer to afford his professional aid. In reply I beg to state that on the day the Synaputty died Asst. Surgeon Baxter was in Mhow, but as he was to rejoin our camp the same evening, when the first report of the deceased's illness was brought to me, I did not think it necessary to send for him.

The circumstances of the Synaputty's illness and death as I became acquainted with them are as follows—On the morning of the 27th January 1840, soon after arriving on our ground at Tillore, one of the Ex Raja's karkoon came with a request that I would cause six pigeons to be procured for the Synaputty's use. On my inquiry why he wanted these birds I was told the Synaputty was unwell, in fact had caught a cold, the words he used were (sardee pakra) and that the flesh of pigeons was recommended to him. The Synaputty, therefore, at that time did not appear to me to be very alarming but still I asked if Asst. Surgeon Baxter should be called, to which I received a denial and concluded therefore that there could be no danger. I thought no more of the business, at about noon, the same day the Karkoon with the others of the Raja's people waited on me desiring the camp should halt at Tillore as the Synaputty was very ill. Indeed, judging from the report brought me in the morning I imagined that it was a mere pretence and that this report of the Synaputty's danger was invented solely for the purpose of obtaining a halt, and I accordingly would not accede to their request but at the same time told them I would send Asst. Surgeon Baxter to visit the Synaputty and take his advise on the subject. To this they would not agree and told me the doctor would not be admitted. I, therefore, did not think of sending for the Asst. Surgeon Baxter

more especially as I knew he would rejoin the camp before night-fall — about two hours afterwards I heard the alarm the Balla Sahib Synapatty was dead. Asst. Surgeon Baxter rejoined our camp on about 5 O'clock on that evening. The reason for his going into Mhow were to call on Major General Brooks to ascertain whether the Hospital establishment of the relieving detachment was to be put on the same footing as that which left Sattara and to wait on the superintending Surgeon for the purpose of procuring admission into the hospital of two patients who were unable to return to Sattara.

When the different reports of the illness of the late Synapatty were brought to me I had not in my mind the least suspicion of any danger existing, or otherwise I would have sent an express for Asst. Surgeon Baxter which could have reached him in less than an hour. Moreover, I had seen the deceased only 2 days previous, than looking well and hearty — but on the other hand had Mr. Baxter been present they would not have admitted him, much less taken his advice or received any aid he would have been willing to afford. In proof of which I may say, that when Yesswunt Row Goozeen, son-in law of the Ex Raja, met with a serious accident at Gharispor, the Ex Raja was not only anxious that Mr. Baxter should see him, but actually accompanied the patient to Mr. Baxter's tent. I then said why did you not call in medical aid when Balla Sahib was taken ill. He replied when surgical skill is required I know very well that Europeans are most skillful, and I always resort to them for assistance, but in medical cases we have no trust in them and prefer our own Hakims.

I trust the above reasons may be considered sufficient for my not sending Asst. Surgeon Baxter to attend upon the deceased Synapatty during his illness.

Route of the Ex Raja of Sattara to Benares

From Sattara to	Probable date of arrival at each station
Ahmednuggur	20th December 1839
Malegam	3rd January 1840
Dhoolia	6th " "
Asserghur	21st " "

Mhow	5th February	„
Bhopal	21st	„ „
Sagur	8th March	„
Rewa	27th	„ „
Mirzapoor	12th April	„
Benares	16th	„ „

No. 5. The Swami Mankeshwar wishes to tour the Satara District. Mr. C. Ovans, Resident, objects. (From C. Ovans to the Collector of Belgaum.)

12th April 1840

Sir,

With reference to your letter..I have the honor to return No. 1 of these accompaniments in order to call your attention to the last paragraph in which it is stated as follows : “The Shree (Swamee) is to visit Sattara in his circuit and it is desirable that a communication should be made to secure for him an Honorable reception agreeably to the former custom ”.

With reference to this request I have the honor to observe that I do not feel myself authorised to make any communication of this nature to this Government, and I also beg to add that I consider the visit of the Swamee to this part of the country to be objectionable at present.

No. 6. Suggestion to transfer to the Resident at Satara the Political duties performed, so far, by the Collector of Belgaum. The Resident's objection to accept that responsibility as he had enough work at Satara Residency. The Resident stated his varied duties. And the importance of retaining the Political Agent in the Southern Maratha Country under the care of the Resident at Satara and give him an Assistant to aid him in this extra responsibility. (From C. Ovans to J. P. Willoughby, Secretary to the Government of Bombay).

4th December 1840

Sir,

With reference to your letter No. 2517 under date the 17th ultimo, and its several accompaniments..I have the honor to

request that you will have the goodness to lay before the Honorable the Governor in Council the following observations on the subject of transferring to the Resident at Satara, the Political duties at the present performed by the Collector of Belgaum.

First, however, I trust, I may be pardoned for endeavouring to remove an impression which may have been given by Mr. Dunlop's letter that the duties here are now so light as to admit of a heavy increase without inconvenience.

As regards this, I beg to bring to the notice of Government the following circumstances which are not alluded to by Mr. Dunlop.

1st. That the Resident here has charge of the military as well as the civil duties.

2ndly. That the Resident has no Assistant—consequently the whole of the detail work of this office falls upon himself.

3rdly. That the amount of revenue is not fair criterion of judging of the duty devolving upon the Political Agents as it is chiefly police matters that they are obliged to interfere in—and that a poor and mountainous country is likely to be more difficult to keep quiet than a rich and fertile one.

In addition to the above reasons, it will readily occur to Government, that since the management of the great Jeegirdars of this Government has fallen more immediately under the Resident this alone has occasioned an increase of business and responsibility—so that altogether the duty here is now almost as great as one person can easily manage.

To enable Government, however, to form a comparison on this point, I may perhaps be permitted to showing the number of outward and inward letters received and despatched by the Resident, both in his Civil and Military capacity, during the last eleven months—although it is to be remembered that the duty here of receiving native visitors of all ranks, and of hearing viva voce representations is the most important, and necessarily occupies a large portion of time which might, otherwise, be given up to other business.

I have thought it incumbent on me to state the above facts to show that the Resident here, could not, I think, undertake under

any circumstances the whole of the political duties of the Southern Maharatta Country without too heavy an increase to his present duties, and also without putting Government to a heavy expence in giving him such assistance as would then be necessary to do.

But there are other reasons which perhaps may occur to Government for not abolishing the Political Agency at Belgaum altogether. It appears to me that it is very desirable for the Civil authority there, to possess the powers of a Political Agent, in addition to his other duties, in as much as situated as he is—the weight this necessarily gives him is required to control all petty Chiefs, with the British territory under him as Collector, gives him more power and greater facilities for settling all the numerous references that constantly occur than the Resident could have—and lastly, the great distance from Sattara of the more southern Chiefs, and the circumstance of the Resident residing himself in a foreign jurisdiction, might throw such serious obstacles in the way of public business as might prove very prejudicial on any emergency.

The above arguments as well as those so clearly laid down in Mr. Townsend's letter, now under reply, will, I think, induce Government to relinquish the idea of placing the whole of the southern Jageerdars under the Resident of Sattara—And I will now respectfully offer a few observations on this proposition contained in the 2nd paragraph of Mr. Townsends letter for placing the seven great Chieftains, therein named, under the charge of the Resident here.

As regards the geographical position of the places of residency of these Chieftains, this appears a very desirable measure. But the accompanying sketch it will be seen, that Sanglee, Meeruch, Tasgaum, Sonee and Sitbal all lie in this side of the Kristna, and that the territory around these places, fill up a place between the Kristna River and the Sattara Raja's other territory and his district of Beejapoor—Mungulwarra also, which belongs to Chintamun Rao of Sangli, is close to Punderpoor, so that perhaps, the country of these Chiefs on this side of the Kistna, is greater than that on the other, and the correspondence regarding it, as to police and other matters, falls naturally more under Sattara than Belgaum.

The only objection to these measures that occur to me are first—whether the transfer of the Chiefs above adverted to, to

Sattara would not weaken the control of the Agent at Belgaum over the contingents of Horse which, I believe, are now supplied for the public service of the southern districts by those chiefs—but on this point, of course, be able to satisfy Government—and secondly—whether the resort of those Chiefs and their vakeels to Sattara might not give rise to intrigues here, which it is very advisable to avoid—and although, it appears to me that by proper vigilance on the part of the Resident, any proceedings of this nature may be timely checked and prevented—yet it is, I think, a point which ought to be taken into consideration.

Should the Government, however, determine on the above measure, I trust in anticipation of so heavy an increase to my duties, I may, respectfully, be permitted to press the necessity of some assistance to be given to me.

The inconvenience experienced here, from there being no civil assistance, is now so very great, that I have long had it in contemplation to bring the matter to the notice of the Government. For, whenever the Resident is obliged to go away on duty or sick or from any other cause, the senior officer, by the existing rules, falls into civil as well as military charge. But this of course is very embarrassing, for it cannot be expected that an officer under such circumstances can be qualified to act, even for the shortest time, without the least experience of such duty.

As the readiest mode of remedying these inconveniences and of affording me aid I, would humbly propose that the staff officer, in charge of the Raja's Regiment, should also be appointed as assistance to the Resident. As this plan would involve no extra expense to Government, and would be a great relief to me in carrying on the details of the office—and an officer acquainted with the business would thus be provided to take temporary charge of the office whenever the Resident happened to be absent.

No. 7. The Court of Directors records its displeasure on the death of the Senapati on his way to Benares. They demand an explanation of Captain Cristall who was in charge of the Raja's party. Captain Cristall gives his defence but it is rejected by the Court of Directors. (From J. P. Willoughby to C. Ovans)

5th December 1840

No. 1 extract of a letter No. 2636, Political Department from Mr. Secretary Willoughby to the Resident at Sattara.

Para : 1st. With reference to the correspondence. I am directed by the Governor in Council to transmit to you, copy of a communication from the Honorable the Court of Directors dated the 4th September last, regarding the affairs of Satara, and to request that you will be pleased to communicate the substance of the 2nd and 5th paragraph thereof to Lieutenant Cristall, late Agent, with the Ex Raja.

No. 2 We regret to learn the death of Balla Sahib Senaputty while accompanying the Ex Raja on his way to Bunares.

3. We cannot pass without an expression of our serious displeasure—the following statement by Lieutenant Cristall, the officer in charge of the Ex Raja.

“ He (the Senaputty) had been unwell it appears a few hours before leaving our last ground but I received no intelligence of this illness until yesterday—midday—when several of the Raja’s people waited me requesting a halt, as the Senaputty was in so dangerous a state, that he could not be moved. I gave a denial to the request, imagining it only an excuse to loiter on the road—knowing by experience how great is their dislike to our system of continuing the journey on which we are bound. The tents etc., which are daily sent in advance, were accordingly dispatched, but at 3 O’clock p. m. the carcoons and others of the Ex Raja’s people came to me with the news of the Senaputty’s death. ”

We infer from the statement, respecting the tents, that both the first intimation to Lieutenant Cristall of the Senaputty’s illness and his subsequent death occurred during the usual midday halt—and that consequently the fatal event was in no degree accelerated by Lieutenant Cristall’s rejection of the request made to him. It, moreover, appears from his subsequent explanation, that on the first information he received that the illness was dangerous he offered the aid of the Medical Officer in charge of the Detachment, (who was not actually present but was to rejoin the camp the same evening) which, however, was declined. Nevertheless, we cannot consider Lieutenant Cristall to have been justified, in taking for granted, that the representation of the Senaputty’s

unfitness to travel, was without foundation. In the absence of the Medical officer, he ought either to have consented to the halt, or to have requested a personal interview with the patient and formed his judgement thereupon.

We desire that the sentiments we have expressed may be communicated to Lieutenant Cristall.

No. 8. Resident's request to permit the Raja of Satara to visit Kolhapur for worship at a temple. If a meeting takes place between the Royal families the Resident promised to keep a close watch. (From C. Ovens to J. P. Willoughby).

7th December 1840

Sir,

I have the honor to request that you will have the goodness to lay before... a yad No. 204 under date the 12th October last, received from the Raja of Satara, expressing His Highness's anxious wish, to pay a visit of devotion to a temple at Kolhapoor.

As this visit is an object of great solicitude, on the part of His Highness, and his family, I hope the Governor in Council will see no objection to His Highness's journey, and if so, I trust I may be permitted to suggest that the Political Agent at Belgaum may be requested to inform the Raja of Kolhapoor that the Raja of Sattara is about to visit Kolhapoor for purpose above specified.

As the families of the Rajas of Sattara and Kolhapoor are nearly connected, should it be their mutual wish to have a meeting, I think, there will be no objection to this on the part of Government, and as it is my intention to accompany His Highness on this journey, in order to visit the Eastern part of these Districts all the necessary arrangements will be made should the visit take place.*

* There was continued correspondence on this question. The sanction of the Kolhapur Government for the Raja's visit was necessary. The Kolhapur Government was averse to be put to expense to receive the Raja of Sattara. The Raja then expressed a wish only to visit the temple and depart without meeting the Raja of Kolhapur. Later the Raja of Kolhapur expressed a wish to meet the Raja of Satara, and Ovens was of opinion, that the parties may be allowed to meet in any way they choose. It was finally decided that the meeting should take place on the 2nd Feb, 1841.

No. 9. The Raja of Satara confers on Balaji Punt Nathu villages with an annual revenue of Rs. 8,000. The Resident is full of praise about the services rendered by Nathu to the British, and pointed out the testimony of two other statesmen, of Balaji's excellent conduct in the past. He adds his own humble tribute. (From C. Ovens to J. P. Willoughby)

22nd December 1840

Sir,

I request you will have the goodness to lay before the Honorable the Governor in Council the annexed translation of a yad No. 275 under date the 6th instant received from the Raja of Sattara, stating that His Highness has been pleased to confer on Ballajeeput Nattoo, Enam villages to the extent of Rupees 8,000 annual revenue.

With regard to communication, I trust, I may be permitted respectfully, to observe that, although, it may perhaps, be considered, absolutely necessary to submit to it for the special sanction of the Honorable the Governor in Council, yet as I know it would be a great satisfaction to Ballajee Punt Nattoo, to obtain the concurrence of the British Government to this grant, I entertain a confident hope, that I may be permitted to convey to this able and upright man, the satisfaction of our Government on this occasion.

It is scarcely necessary for me to enter into a detail of services of Ballaji Punt Nattoo. His name has now been associated with our own in the Deccan for about forty years, and during the whole of this long period of time, he has stood pre-eminent for wisdom, talent and an unimpeachable integrity.

But, although, I feel, that I am unable to speak of his worth as he deserves, I gladly avail myself of this opportunity of putting on public record, the testimony of two of the most able Indian Statesmen* in his favor, as the statements of both these great men, written with their own hands, and given to him on their leaving this country, must, I think, be admitted to be conclusive.

I feel, as if it may be considered presumptive in me, to add one word to testimonials such as these. But, having had the advantage of Ballajee Punt's assistance for four years, and having

* M. Elphinstone and James Grant.

known him intimately during this period; I trust, I may also add my humble tribute of respect and admiration, both of his public worth and of his private virtues.

I may also be permitted to add that acting on his sound and judicious advice, His Highness the Raja of Sattara, has introduced such wholesome reforms into the administration of his country, that if adhered to, cannot fail of being productive of the greatest benefits to all classes.

No. 10 Explanation demanded by the Court of Directors regarding the circumstances in which the Senaputi died on his way to Benares. The Resident wrote, explaining on behalf of Captain Cristall, the circumstances under which the Senaputty died and defended, Captain Cristall's conduct towards the Senaputi. (From C. Ovan to J. P. Willoughby)

4th February 1841

Sir,

With reference to your letter No. 2636 under date the 5th December last, . . I beg you will have the goodness to submit to the Honorable the Governor in Council, that, in obedience to the instructions contained in the 1st paragraph of the letter I communicated to Lieut. Cristall, late Agent with the Ex Raja of Sattara, the sentiments of the Honorable Court as conveyed in the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th paragraphs of this dispatch, regarding the death of Balla Sahib Senaputty on route to Bunaras—and having received a further statement from this officer on this subject, I trust, I may be permitted respectfully to enclose a copy of the same for the consideration of Government.

In justice to this meritorious officer I may also, I hope, venture to confirm his account of the evasions constantly practiced by the Ex Raja to delay his journey to Bunarus, and to so great a length was this system carried on, even before they left this quarter, that I particularly impressed upon Lieutenant Cristall the necessity of admitting of no unnecessary halts.

The letter from Mr Box, to which Lieutenant Cristall alludes, and of which I beg to annex a copy,* must likewise necessarily

* No copy was found,

have added to Lieutenant Cristall's anxiety to proceed and as it was evident that the Ex Raja had some particular object in view in going to Mhow, or halting in its neighbourhood, it is clear that a halt could not have been made without the most urgent necessity.

Indeed, had Lieutenant Cristall permitted a halt, and had the Senaputty's illness not turned out to be serious, it is evident he would have exposed himself to censure from Government, and although, it is to be very greatly regretted that Lieutenant Cristall did not follow the plain course laid down by the Honorable Court, of either seeing the Senaputty or ordering a halt, still, it must also be permitted that no human foresight could possibly have anticipated such a sudden and melancholy result.

But as no mischief, in point of fact, followed the denial given by Lieutenant Cristall, the Senaputty's death having taken place a few hours afterwards, and, as doubtless, had Lieutenant Cristall discovered that his illness was really serious, a halt would have been made. I confidently hope that the Honorable Court will not permit this single error of judgement, resulting too from zeal in the execution of an exceedingly arduous and responsible duty, to weigh against the merits and services of this able and deserving officer.

No. 11. The Resident conveys to the Bombay Government the death of the elder wife of the Raja of Satara. (From C. Ovans to J. P. Willoughby).

3rd March 1841

Sir,

I have the honor to request that you will have the goodness to submit to the Honorable the Governor in Council that I have this morning received a message from His Highness, the Raja of Satara, communicating to me the intelligence of the death of Jeejee Sahib Maharaj, the elder wife of His Highness.

The Ranee had been ailing some time past, but it was not till yesterday, that her attendants supposed her to be in any danger. They then sent to the Raja to inform him of her situation, and His Highness immediately expressed his anxiety that she should

see Doctor Erskine. The Ranee consented to this and Doctor Erskine visited her last evening. But her case appeared then to Doctor Erskine to be hopeless and I regret to say she expired last night about midnight.

No. 12. The Raja of Satara claimed Rs. 80,000 involved in transactions regarding a ship bought by the Ex Raja of Satara. The Resident supported the claim. The parties involved are Dr. Milne, Rango Bapuji and Sakhram Bapuji. (From C. Ovans to J. P. Willoughby)

12th March 1841

Sir,

I have the honor to request you that you will have the goodness to lay before the Honorable the Governor in Council the annexed translation of a yad No. 395 under date the 11th instant received from the Raja of Sattara regarding a ship called the City of Poonah, said to be in the hands of Messrs Pollexfin Milne and Co., of Bombay, and claimed as State property by His Highness.

As regards this claim I beg respectfully to refer Government to my letter in the Secret Department No. 50 under date the 12th October 1839 and its several accompaniments, in which all the details regarding this ship are fully given, and duly supported by translations and extracts from original communication of Rungo Bapoojee and Suckharam Bapoojee to the Ex Raja of Sattara.

The substance of the whole seems to have been, that these two agents, acting as they say by Doctor Milne's advise, persuaded the Ex Raja that he ought to have a ship—that funds to the extent of 5,500 rupees were sent to purchase a ship—for which sums a receipt from Sukaram Bapoojee has been found—that a further sum of Rs. 25,000 sent for Rungo Bapoojee's expences to England was afterwards appropriated to this ship—that Doctor Milne himself is stated to have advanced money and become a sharer in this ship, and that in the agreement drawn up by Suckharam Bapoojee, it is provided that this ship is to be placed in the hands of Pollexfin Milne & Co., of Bombay.

Such appear to be the leading facts of this extraordinary transaction, and as the money viz., 80,000 rupees is clearly proved to

have been sent by the Ex Raja of Sattara—it appears, only just and reasonable, that it should be made over to the present Raja, in the same manner as all the other State property here has been made over to His Highness.

I beg, therefore, respectfully to report the suggestion made in the 14th paragraph of my report on this subject, above referred to viz., that Suckharam Bapoojee and Messrs Pollexfin Milne & Co., be called upon to render an account of 80,000 rupees for which their receipts formed Nos. 22 and 23 of that despatch.

No. 13. The Resident's objection to the removal of British troops from Satara. He feels the Raja's Corps would not be sufficient in time of danger. It would also be unwise to leave Satara undefended in a long line of communications from Poona to Belgaum. The step would also adversely affect the political situation, considering that Satara had always been the cradle of rebellion. Besides the Ex Raja's partisans may avail of a weak military position and create trouble for the new Government. (From C. Ovens to J. P. Willoughby).

16th March 1841

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter in this Department No. 678 under date the 13th instant calling upon me to report whether in my opinion any, if so, what objection exist to the withdrawal of the whole British troops from Sattara, with the exception of 100 men to be relieved once or twice a year from Poonah.

As this question must, I think, be considered one of considerable importance, I trust, I may be permitted most respectfully to submit the following observations for the consideration of Government, and I hope, I need scarcely add, that whatever may be the final arrangements on this subject—every exertion on my part will be made to carry the wishes of Government into full effect.

As it is to the Local Corps, lately organised, by His Highness, the Raja of Sattara, that Government is disposed to look for the future protection of this country—the efficiency of this Corps is evidently the first point to be considered.

It will be in the recollection of Government, that this Corps is composed not of the best recruits that could be got here—but only of the best of the old seebundees, and, therefore though it is a great improvement on that body, still it cannot be so efficient as if it had been composed of new and picked men as recruits.

I need scarcely mention that it has only been embodied about twelve months, and that the men have barely completed their drill—in fact, they have only just been reported fit for duty, and when in addition to these drawbacks, it is considered that this Regiment has only one European Officer attached to it, it is evident that it would not be prudent to depend too much upon it in case of any sudden danger.

With reference to the remark in the 3rd paragraph of your letter, that the Raja's Local Corps might, in the event of the withdrawal of our troops, occupy the whole or a portion of the British Cantonment. I beg leave respectfully to observe, that its present strength, would scarcely admit of that being barely equal to its own duties, and to supply the guards in the town viz., at the Palace—the jail and the treasury, which it is now required to furnish.

I may, also, I hope to be permitted to add to that His Highness the Raja has nearly completed very good and substantial Lines for this Corps near the Town at a very heavy expense, I doubt if this arrangement would be readily assented to, I think also, that with reference to the men themselves, it would be expedient, even if our troops are withdrawn, to leave the Local Corps in their own Lines.

In discussing the military part of this question, I may, perhaps be pardoned, if I presume to call the attention of Government to this station, as regards the general defences of the country. It will, doubtless, occur to Government, that if the British troops be withdrawn from Sattara, there will not be then a British soldier (except the party of 100 men it is proposed to place here) between Poona and Belgaum, a distance, north and south of 227 miles—nor between Sholapoor and Dapoolie a distance, east and west of 223 miles—and at Dapoolie itself, there is only, I believe, a very small part of the Native Veteran Battalion,

In fact the Corps in Sattara by its admirable position appears to me to form a link in the general military chain of defence of the Deckan, which it may be unsafe to break. For it not only connects Poonah and Belgaum and Sholapoor and Dapoolie, but it covers the whole of the western ghats, and it defends the south Concan itself, where there is now no regiment of the line, and to which there is an easy descent even for guns via the Koombhary Ghat to Chiploon, and thence by water to every part of the coast.

The above are the chief objections in a military point of view, which occur to me to the abandonment of Sattara as a military post—and I may now be permitted, I trust, to advert to those of a political nature.

It is well known to Government, that upwards of a century, the strong and almost inaccessible mountainous districts to the westward of Sattara have been in the very cradle of rebellion, and it is only a few years back, that formidable bands of Ramoosees, led by Oomea and other daring Chiefs—were organised in this neighbourhood. Even last year, we saw how easily and rapidly an insurgent body could be collected here ready for any mischief.

It is certainly true, that at present this country is enjoying a wonderful state of repose, yet, we must not forget, that it has still within it abundant material for mischief. It behoves us, therefore, to be always ready to put down the very first symptoms of disaffection, and in order to do so, we must have troops at hand that can be relied on, for no check would be productive of incalculable mischief.

The political constitution of this country must also, in a question of this nature, be carefully considered. From the Neera river southwards to Belgaum and Dharwar, this country is almost entirely held by a numerous body of Chiefs, some of superior, others of an inferior grade, but all possessing great power within their fiefs and villages and having very considerable bodies of irregular troops of different arms and description entirely at their own disposal.

It is clear, therefore, that an efficient disposable body of British troops on the spot must always form a wholesome check on

the elements of which such a society is composed and that the absence of such a check might be productive of serious evil.

In conclusion I ought not to omit to advert to the recent change of Government at Satara itself, and to the partisans of the Ex Raja, who still remain here—some of whom still possess considerable influence—It is only natural that these men should feel impatient at the present position of affairs here, and we may fairly conclude, that they would readily encourage any scheme which may hold out a prospect of change tending to their own advantage. I possess proof to show that the hopes of the Ex Raja's friends are still carefully nourished, and it behoves us, therefore, to guard against these secret inclinations, as well as the more open dangers that visit us.

These are the principal objections which occur to me to the measure now in contemplation. I have ventured to submit them in obedience to the orders contained in your letter. But, I beg to add, that I do so with the greatest deference, and simply with a view that Government may see this question in all its different bearings before coming to a final decision, and I trust, I need not repeat that whatever arrangements may be determined upon regarding it, the same will be carried into effect to the utmost of my power and ability.

No. 14 Arab insurgents seized the treasury at Badami. The Raja took steps to preserve peace. The intentions of the insurgents not known. (From C. Ovens to J. P. Willoughby)

4th June 1841

Sir,

With reference to my despatch of yesterday's date I have the honor to request that you will have the goodness to submit to the Honourable the Governor in Council that I have this day received information that a body of insurgent Arabs, from His Highness the Nizam's country has taken possession of Badamee in the Belgaum Collectorate and seized the treasury there.

I have lost no time in transmitting this information to the Acting Political Agent, Southern Mahratta Country, to the Magistrate of Sholapoor and to the Resident at Hyderabad and I

beg respectfully to lay copies of these communications before Government.

By these letters it will be seen that His Highness the Raja of Sattara has already taken steps to preserve the peace of these Districts, and that his officers are ordered to afford every assistance to the authorities of the British Government and there of His Highness the Nizam in quelling the insurrection.

There appears to be little doubt that this is the same body of Arabs stated by the Resident at Hyderabad to have assembled at Deeco Droog in His Highness the Nizam's country and it is reported that they take the name of Chuttoorsing and do not interfere with the ryots; it is uncertain what their ultimate objects may be.

As Badamee, however, is so near Kulladghee and Dharwar and at a great distance from Belgaum itself there is little doubt effectual steps have been already taken to put down the insurgents. But as their movements are uncertain, I have thought it prudent to request the Magistrate of Sholapoor to afford military aid either to the Bijapoor or Akulcot authorities, if called upon by them to do so, and this, I trust, as a measure of precaution will be approved of.

No. 15. The conspirator a blind and poor Brahmin suspected of receiving the support of persons of wealth and consequence. But no proper conclusive evidence to implicate any person closely with the insurgents. The Ex Raja suspected of having a hand in the matter. A paper seized, had no seal or signature of the Ex Raja. One Nurso Punt was the moving spirit of the conspiracy. (From C. Ovans to J. P. Willoughby).

26th June 1841

Sir,

In obedience to the instructions. I have the honor to request that you will have the goodness to lay before the Honorable the Governor in Council, translation of certain papers forwarded to me, by His Highness the Raja of Sattara regarding Nursappa or Nursoo Punt, the blind Brahmin, who has been stated to have been one of the leader of the Arab insurgents at Badamee.

It will be observed that these dispositions were taken and forwarded to me by His Highness in May 1840. It was then, the object to obtain information, regarding the rising just suppressed towards Prutchitghur but as these statements did not appear to me to throw much light on that transaction, I did not consider it necessary to submit them to Government, particularly as I would gain no further intelligence at the time of the blind Brahmin herein alluded to.

I certainly had no idea that such a person ever could have brought his schemes to bear, in the manner he appears to have done, and his being apparently so poor and contemptible affords ground for supposing that he must be supported by other persons of wealth and consequence.

There is no conclusive proof, I think, in these papers, against any particular person — except Nursoo Punt himself, although it may be proper to call the attention of Government to the bad mission of Nursingrow Bhonslay, who is a relation of the late Senaputty. As the blind Brahmin's interview with the Ex Raja at Nimb — and it is also a curious fact that Rambhau — the person at Poonah was one of the emissaries of the Ex Raja at Poonah, and put under restraint in 1837 in consequence of his share in the intrigues then carrying on there.

The paper marked.. Tynat Japtee from the Ex Raja of Sattara to Nursoo Punt has no seal or signature, and appears to be in the same handwriting as the other letters, which are stated by the deponent Ramjee bin Essajee to have been written by a bramin servant of Nursoo Punt and perhaps if this person, as well as Rambhau, and other persons mentioned, were examined, more light might be thrown on this affair.

As this case now stands, however, I beg respectfully with reference to the orders contained in the 2nd paragraph of your circular letter No. 1686 under date the 18th instant to solicit instruction of Government as to whether the original of these papers should be transmitted to the Acting Political Agent at Belgaum, who will be able to interrogate Nursoopant himself, as to their designs and the different participators in them, and in the anticipation of orders to this effect, I beg to report that I have requested His Highness the Raja of Sattara, to procure the

attendance of the persons whose depositions are now sent with as little delay as possible, in order that they also may be sent to Belgaum and confronted with Nursoo Punt.

No. 16. Certain papers implicating the insurgents turn out fabricated and forged. The seal was conclusively proved a forgery. No evidence to connect any person in Satara with the insurgents at Badami. (From C. Ovans to J. P. Willoughby).

15th July 1841

Sir,

I request you will have the goodness to lay before the Honorable the Governor in Council the annexed copy of a letter No. 297 under date the 8th instant, received from the Acting Political Agent, Southern Mahratta Country, transmitting to me copies of his report to Government, as also copies of the translations of the depositions therein alluded to, regarding the insurrection at Badamee.

I have also the honor to forward the Mahrati papers, referred to by Mr. Shaw in the 2nd paragraph of his letter to my address, and with reference to these papers, I beg to state, that having had them carefully examined and compared here with the other papers of Nursing Row in my possession, I have come to the conclusion, that these papers are not genuine, but that they have been fabricated either by himself or by some one under his direction.

I am inclined to think also that there is little reliance to be placed on what Nursing Row has stated, either in his first or in his final deposition. The account he gives of his petitioning the Honorable the Governor, when at Sattara, is not true, at least I have nothing of it at the time and no petition of his was ever made over to me in the way he mentions.

I have made inquiry as to his master (as he styles him) Khundrao Bhonslay Seeralkur, and find that there is no person of this name now residing at Seeralla in Sattara territory, and that the Ex Raja did release some land of his, some few years ago from attachment. But the story of the seal is considered here to be all a fabrication, as no seal bearing this impression was ever seen or known here.

As Nursoo Punt, however, fixes the whole of the plot on his late master, by whom I suppose, he means Khundrao Bhonslay of Seeralala, I beg respectfully to suggest that should it meet with the approval of Government, I may be authorised to apply to His Highness the Raja of Sattara to send Khundrao Bhonslay himself to Belgaum, to be confronted with Nursoopunt, as this perhaps may throw some light on this affair.

In conclusion I beg to report that after making every inquiry in my power here conformably to instructions of Government, I have not been able to discover any connexion between any persons now at Sattara, and the insurgents at Badamee.

No. 17. Ship called the City of Poona ordered by the Ex Raja from Messers Pollexfin Milne & Co., to be claimed by the Raja of Sattara. The Raja refused to take any measures for the recovery of that property or the money paid for it by the Ex Raja. (From C. Ovan to J. P. Willoughby).

28th July 1841

Sir,

With reference to your letter No. 1413 under date the 26th May last, and its accompaniment being copy of a communication from the Advocate General No. 28 under date the 11th May, regarding the ship called the City of Poona claimed by His Highness the Raja of Sattara from the Firm of Messrs Pollexfin Milne and Co., of Bombay, I beg to request that you will have the goodness to lay before the Honorable the Governor in Council that I have communicated the substance of the 2nd paragraph of your letter to the Raja of Sattara, but that His Highness has expressed his unwillingness to have recourse to any measures in the Supreme Court of Bombay for the recovery of this property.

His Highness, at the same time, stated that he would be glad if a communication could be made direct by me to the Firm of Pollexfin Milne and Co., to ascertain if they will admit the validity of their own receipts for the money in His Highness's possession, and, if so, whether they are prepared to discharge this claim, and as I observe that this course is also suggested by Lemessurier, I beg to solicit the sanction of Government for adopting the same.

No. 18. Arab insurgents gather in the Southern Maratha Country. The Ex Raja it appeared was the moving spirit behind the conspiracy that aimed to revive his authority in Satara. Opinions differed on the aim of the insurrection. Preparations were set afoot to meet the danger. (From C. Ovens to D. A. Blanè, Acting Secretary to the Government of Bombay.)

12th September 1841

Sir,

I have the honor to request you will have the goodness to lay before the Honorable the Governor in Council the enclosed copy of a letter and of its accompaniments received today by express from the Acting Political Agent Southern Mahratta Country.

I agree with Mr. Shaw in thinking that there is not much confidence to be placed in the report of so large a body of Arabs having assembled near Gokah, because as this intelligence must be at least fifteen or twenty days old, some information regarding them must long ago have been obtained by the local authorities in that neighbourhood.

At the same time, all accounts seem to agree, that the parties of Arabs are moving quietly through the Southern and Eastern Districts, though for what specific object no authentic information has yet been elicited.

Mr. Shaw states, that it has been often reported, that the object of this movement is on Sattara—Captain Jackson also writes from Muktal that these reports are so general there, that the Ex Raja of Sattara, with his relations and some Jageerdars of the Southern Mahratta Country, are the instigators of these disturbance, that he can hardly entertain a doubt in the matter—but I have not myself been able to discover, whether there are any persons now at Sattara in their designs.

I have, indeed, reason to know that the adherents of the Ex Raja, amongst whom may be classed all disaffected characters in this country, are now highly excited in consequence of the reports at present so confidently circulated amongst them, that the Ex Raja is to be brought back again in opposition to the wishes of the Indian Government, and I know also that an active correspondence is going on between the Ex Raja and his adherents at

Sattara, Poona and Bombay ostensible for the purpose of reporting to him the efforts at present making in England in his favour.

The persons here, however, on whose opinion I inclined to place most credit, seem to think that the immediate object of these Arabs is to rescue their companions now in confinement at Dharwar. It may be in the recollection of Government that amongst other designs of the Ex Raja, one was to establish an intercourse with Hyderabad—and his aid it seems is the Jemadar of one of the nobles, who was said to have been implicated in the Ex Raja's schemes, and this may account in some degree for the anxiety now shown to save him from the punishment, which is understood to await him.

As Mr. Shaw states that no assistance can be given from the Southern Mahratta Country, it will of course be necessary, in case of emergency, to apply to Poona for troops, and I request the authority of Government for doing so, though, I trust, no such emergency will arise.

In addition to the precautionary measures reported to Government. His Highness the Raja, has been pleased to establish patrols of horse along the southern frontiers and elsewhere, in order to intercept all armed parties passing through the country as well as, to give timely information of their movements, and means have, likewise, been taken to verify the information now received by confidential agents sent for the purpose.

No. 19. The Resident refuses to be involved in the affairs of the ship the City of Poona. The Raja also has no desire to be involved in any litigation. (From C. Ovans to J. P. Willoughby).

18th September 1841

Sir,

With reference to Mr. Acting Secretary Blane's letter.. regarding the ship called the City of Poona.. that it is not His Highness's wish to make any communications except through the Resident.

It will be observed, also, that His Highness again states.. his unwillingness to take any measures in the Supreme Court at Bombay

for the recovery of this money, in case an application from me to the Firm of Pollexfin & Co., should not be attended to.

Under these circumstances, as I do not feel sure that I would be justified in involving myself in a correspondence with that Firm, I beg respectfully to submit the matter as it now stands for the consideration of Government.

No. 20. The Resident, C. Ovans, writes to the Government at Bombay to allow him to defend his conduct against certain observations made by Colonel Lodwick before the Court of Proprietors. The observations were regarding his conduct, as one of the Commissioners, appointed to examine, the charges against the Ex Raja of Satara. The defence also includes the other Commissioner, Mr. Willoughby, who as Ovans said, was like him, unjustly accused of prejudicial conduct, suppression of evidence, refusal to cross-examine etc. (From C. Ovans to J. P. Willoughby)

22nd October 1841

Sir,

Having observed in a speech, stated to have been made by Major General Lodwick, at a general Court of Proprietors of East India Stock, held at the East India House, on the 15th July last, certain observations tending to throw discredit on the Members of a Commission held at Sattara in October 1836, to inquire into the charges against the Ex Raja of Sattara and his Dewan, of which General Lodwick was Resident, I have the honor to request, that as a member of that Commission, I may be permitted most respectfully, to lay before Government the following remarks.

In this speech, Major General Lodwick is reported to have made the following assertions, and it is to these, that I wish to direct the particular attention of Government, in as much as I conceive, and will, I think, be able to prove, that the other member of that Commission has been most unjustly and unwarrantably aspersed by Major General Lodwick.

The assertion of which, I think, I have just reason to complain, and against which I conceive I am bound to protest as follows :

1st. That the members of that Commission were actuated by the feelings of the Government and entertained the strongest prejudices against the Raja.

2nd. That the Ex Raja was treated with the greatest disrespect.

3rd. That Mr. Willoughby and myself opposed the cross examination of the Native officers.

4th. That the principal Native officers "looked confused" and that the appearance of the other was that of a "ghost" thereby impugning the honor and veracity of these officers.

5th. that the report of the evidence was "ready prepared" (meaning thereby, I presume without his knowledge) and that he was "pressed" to sign it (against his conviction).

6th. That in placing this "precious" document in the box he declared it "utterly worthless" and that he had only signed it "in obedience to" the positive instruction of Sir Robert Grant.

As regards the first of the three charges, namely, the prejudices entertained by Mr. Willoughby and myself against the Ex Raja of Sattara, I can only say that I had never myself been to Sattara, that I had never before seen either Major General Lodwick or the Ex Raja, that I knew nothing of the opinion of Government on the subject, and that if any prejudice had been excited against the Ex Raja, it was from the report of Major General Lodwick himself, who had written to Sir Robert Grant that the Ex Raja had proved faithless to his engagement—so far from my colleague and myself feeling any bias, I can safely say, that night and day we weighed the evidence with the most scrupulous anxiety and that we urged Major General Lodwick, over and over again, to procure every information he could to throw light on what struck us as so mysterious an affair. But General Lodwick, though President of that Commission and Resident at the Court, either could not or would not give any assistance, although it was his bounden duty to do so, and although he himself by his reports to Government had forced the proceedings on Sir Robert Grant.

As regards the charge of disrespect to the Ex Raja it appears to me that Major General Lodwick's memory must have failed in this, as well as, in many other important points. It has always

been the custom at Sattara for the Raja to visit the Resident on business – and it was clear that his coming on this occasion was no degradation – nay, not even a departure from ordinary usage. But to prove, that instead of disrespect, the Raja was treated with the greatest respect, I need only refer to the letter written to him by Sir Robert Grant himself, and delivered to him by Major General Lodwick and Mr Willoughby in person inviting him to come to the Residency to meet the Commissioners, and to which he immediately assented – thus shewing that the disrespect complained existed only in General Lodwick's own imagination.

The next charge made by General Lodwick against his colleagues is of a more grave and serious nature. This relates to the cross examination of the Native officers, which we are stated to have opposed. Now it is only necessary to refer to the proceedings of the Commission itself to refute this charge. For by these proceedings it will be seen that these Native officers were cross examined, and that under the strictest precautions, to guard against collusion and fraud. The reasons, too, for not subjecting the Native officers to a more searching cross examination are given on the face of the proceedings, and as these remarks were concurred in, without any dissent on the part of Major General Lodwick – it is only fair to presume, he was then perfectly satisfied. But, if he were not satisfied, why did he not himself carry on the cross examination. He was himself President of that Commission and, therefore, more particularly responsible for its proceedings, and if he did not then satisfy his conscience, and subject the witnesses to any further cross examination he thought necessary, he was clearly guilty of a gross dereliction of duty.

The 4th point above adverted to, relates to the Native officers, who were the principal evidence in this case – and, here again, it is only necessary to refer to the proceedings of the Commission, to prove the fallacy of the charges now brought against them. The principal witness was ten hours under examination, and his evidence drew from the Commission the following remark, which I perfectly recollect, was fully and entirely concurred in by Major General Lodwick.

The Commission “deem it right to record that Sew Goolam-sing's evidence occupied ten hours, and that it was delivered in a straightforward, collected and intelligent manner—the witnesses

several times observing that he had spoken nothing but the truth, although he might have narrated events somewhat out of order in which they exactly occurred.

Again, as regards the appearance of the other Native officer, which Major General Lodwick wishes to torture to his disadvantage, I beg to state, that this officer had only just recovered from severe illness, and that it was only wonderful, considering his physical debility from that cause—that he could have given evidence he did—Major General Lodwick should in candor and common honesty have mentioned this circumstance, for the truth of which, I beg respectfully to refer to my colleague Mr. Willoughby and every officer of the 23rd Regiment at Sattara.

With respect to interference, meant to be drawn from the statement, that on coming into Court “he (Major General Lodwick) had found the report of the evidence ready prepared” and that he was “pressed to sign it”—It is well known that one of the members must act as Secretary, and on this occasion the Political Secretary of Government, was pressed by General Lodwick himself to perform this duty. After the evidence had all been taken a rough draft of a report was prepared, and this draft was not carefully read over in Court and compared with the evidence. Major General Lodwick being present and presiding there in his usual place. The opinion of the Resident and members were also then and there taken, on every point on which any difference seemed to exist—and a fair copy of this report framed, so as to meet the unanimous opinion of the Commission was then written out and read and signed without protest or dissent, I beg, likewise, to add, that I perfectly recollect, that Major General Lodwick remarked, on closing our proceedings, that the Political Secretary was entitled to a vote of thanks, for the able manner in which he had recorded the same.

Major General Lodwick himself, however, states, that in placing this “precious” document in the box he declared it utterly “worthless”. This remark I do not recollect, and if it had been made, I think, it must have provoked some discussion. But he, Major General Lodwick, thought this report so “worthless” may it not be fairly asked, how did it happen to bear his signature? His own reason for that is still more extraordinary viz., that he had only signed it “in obedience to the orders of Sir Robert

Grant, a man most religiously scrupulous himself, could ever have "ordered" any person to sacrifice his principles in this way." I boldly assert this to be a most groundless charge against the character of our highly venerated and departed Governor. General Lodwick, it is true, was ordered to defer to the opinion of the majority of that Commission but this arose out of a reference, on a point of form, regarding the Ex Raja's coming to the Residency, to which he had raised some frivolous objections. But this only proves how circumstance may be tortured to meet the views and ends of men, who wish to excuse their own errors, even at the expence of those who are not living to defend themselves, and whose characters, therefore, should be held sacred in such a discussion.

I must trust to the indulgence of Government for having entrusted the above remarks. But I feel that I am bound to give these explanations in justice to myself, and to my colleague and to the Government which employed us. We had an important public duty committed to us, and we endeavoured to perform that duty conscientiously and fearlessly, and I may also be permitted to add, that my firm conviction still is, what it then was viz., that the opinions given in that Report were irresistibly forced upon us by the evidence recorded in our proceedings.

No. 21. C. Ovans, Resident, gives his defence to the Government of Bombay against observations in the United Services Gazettee by Charles Forbes, Baronet, Chairman of British India Society. Ovans gives a complete history of the Satara case seeking justification or denying various charges against his conduct towards the Ex. Raja. (From C. Ovans to J. P. Willoughby)

25th November 1841

Sir,

Having observed in the United Service Gazettee under date the 12th instant, a paper stated to be a petition "to the Honorable the Commons of Great Britain and Ireland in Parliament assembled" dated London the 16th day of September 1841, and signed Charles Forbes Baronet, Chairman of the British India Society, I conceive myself imperatively called upon to lay before Government the following observations on this Government.

The misrepresentations and falsehoods contained in this petition are so numerous that it would be difficult to expose them without going into a complete history of the Sattara case. I must, therefore, content myself by first calling the attention of Government to the following accusations against myself personally, and afterwards to certain other misstatements, which I am able to contradict by my direct and personal knowledge of these transactions.

The accusations against myself personally in this petition are as follows :

1st. That I invaded the Ex Raja's chamber at the dead of night—dragged him from his bed—and thrust him almost naked into a pallankeen with his cousin Balla Saheb Senaputty.

2nd. That the present Raja was with me assisting in these outrages.

3rd. That the Ex Raja was hurried off to Banarus, under such circumstances of unnecessary cruelty, that Balla Sahib Senaputty died on the road, and a halt refused to his wife on her confinement.

These are grave charges, and if true, no doubt, deserve all the reprobation bestowed upon them in this petition, but I beg leave solemnly and unequivocally to declare, that they are all and every part of them utterly false, and, moreover, I beg respectfully to add, that if necessary, I am ready to make a deposition on oath to the following effect.

1st. That it was broad daylight when I arrived at the Ex Raja's Palace.

2nd. That I did not go into any chamber of the Palace but only into the open area, in the centre of that building.

3rd. That the Ex Raja himself came down stairs to me and joined me there.

4th. That the Ex Raja and the Senaputty were not put into the same pallankin.

5th. That the present Raja did not accompany me into the town.

To these facts, I am ready, as before stated, to make a deposition on oath and I also beg most earnestly, that the Government

will be pleased to call upon Lieutenant Cristall of the 8th Regiment, Lieutenant Terry of the Artillery and Lieutenant Follet of the 25th Regiment, the officers who were with or near me on this occasion, for their depositions on oath as to what they know of these transactions.

As regards the Ex Raja being hurried off to Banarus, and the cruelties committed on the road, it will be sufficient to mention the following facts. First, that the Ex Raja's disposal took place on the 5th September 1839, and that he did not leave Nimbgaum till the 7th December following—this proving that he had three full months to prepare for his journey. Secondly, that the Ex Raja did not arrive at Banarus until the 25th March, this giving 109 days to perform a journey of 927 miles or about 9 miles per diem. Thirdly, that every attention was paid to his comfort, in as much as the expence of carriage alone for himself and followers cost upwards of 80,000 rupees, the whole of which was defrayed by the Sattara Government. Fourthly, that this accusation regarding the Senaputty and his wife is as false as the other charges above adverted to, in as much as a halt was made on the confinement of that lady, and that the Senaputty himself died suddenly of apoplexy, not certainly of any hardship suffered on the road, having up to the very day of his death been in excellent health.

These, as far as I see, are the accusations more immediately effecting myself in this petition, and which I again deny in the fullest and most unequivocal manner and I will now venture to offer some observations on the other charges in this petitions, which from my situation here, I may be expected to have a more thorough knowledge than any other person.

These charges may, I think, be briefly summed up as follows :

- 1st. As regards the infraction of the Treaty by the British Government, and the insults offered to the Ex Raja.
- 2nd. The Braminical conspiracy against the Ex Raja.
- 3rd. The proceedings of the Commission.
- 4th. The treatment of Govindrow Dewan.
- 5th. The denial of the Viceroy of Goa.
- 6th. The amnesty proposed to the Ex Raja.
- 7th. The character of the Ex Raja and that of his successor,

and on these, I beg respectfully, to be permitted to offer the following remarks.

I know of no infraction of Treaty by the British Government. If the boundary dispute, as it is called, be the case alluded to, this may be explained in a few words. The Treaty distinctly states that the Neera river is to be the boundary of the Sattara Territory. The Ex Raja claimed all country beyond that river, belonging to the Punt Sucheo. This claim the British Government resisted, as it had a perfect right to do. All the authorities in India were unanimous in rejecting the Ex Raja's claim — nevertheless he was told it would be referred to England and he was requested to await the result. But he was perfectly "callous" to use General Lodwick's own words — to reason on this point. He refused to listen to any advice on the part of the Resident, and in so doing, he, not the British Government, first violated the Treaty, in as much as, it is clearly laid down in the 2nd Article of that Treaty, that he shall be "guided in all matters by the advice of the British Agent at His Highness Court."

And who, it may be asked, was to be the Umpire in a case of this kind? The Ex Raja was not an independent Prince — on the contrary does not this very Treaty clearly prove his entire dependence on the British Government. The British Government, therefore, was alone the judge and by its decision he was bound to abide. Therefore, this dispute can form no excuse for the conduct of the Ex Raja, on the contrary it throws the first infraction of the Treaty on himself.

With reference to the Ex Raja's being treated with open insult as regards the sword sent from England and the Dusra present, the explanation is easy. The sword arrived in Bombay on the 4th of June 1836 and on the 26th of July following, Major General Lodwick reported to Government the attempts making at Sattara to seduce the Soobedars from their allegiance. I will, therefore, simply ask whether under such circumstances this sword could then have been presented to the Ex Raja? Again, as regards the Dusra dresses — these dresses, be it observed, were sent to Bombay at the very time viz., in November 1836, when the Raja was labouring under the heaviest charges of disaffection to the British Government. How could these proofs of friendship have been then accepted? Indeed, this was one among many other

proofs of the imbecility of the Resident, that he should have permitted these presents to have left Sattara, thus, involved Government in any discussion regarding them.

The Braminical conspiracy alluded to is a mere (mere) fiction. If any conspiracy existed, it was on the part of the Ex Raja and his chitnavees to trample on the bramins, and to elevate the rival caste of Purvos, to which the chitnavees belonged. From what, it is said, it might be supposed that all the witnesses against the Ex Raja were bramins. But what is the fact. In the case of the Soobedars, out of nine native witnesses for the prosecution three only were bramins, out of twenty four witnesses in the Goa case fifteen were bramins, and out of the eleven witnesses in the Nag-poor case only three were bramins, thus proving that the majority of the witnesses against the Ex Raja were not bramins but other castes.

The Commission of Sattara is accused in this petition of receiving "secret and anonymous" evidence, and evidence admitted to be prejured, and of refusing to cross examine the witnesses. This is a grave charge, and if true, will doubtless be borne out by the proceedings of the Commission, which, it seems, have now been published. I ask, therefore, any honest man, who has read these proceedings, whether they do hear (bear) out such accusations as these? I ask what is the secret and anonymous evidence alluded to, so far from recording evidence of this description, the Commissioners compelled the Resident to disclose the name of his secret informant and, moreover, summoned that informant to give evidence to (in) his own person before them and on his oath. But who are the prejured witnesses? Not the European officers I presume. The Soobedars and the bramin Untajee, I suppose, are the witnesses alluded to—Yet the European officers on their oaths give these Soobedars the highest character, and Colonel Lodwick himself bore witness on his oath also, to the exemplary conduct of the whole of the 23rd Regiment. Do these petitioners mean, therefore, to infer that all this testimony is false; as to the bramin Untajee, what do the Commissioner's themselves say?—"that he (Untajee) was guilty of the grossest prevarication, and that no weight whatever had been attached to his uncorroborated testimony". Yet, it is made to appear, in this petition, that the accusation against the Ex Raja rested on this person's unsupported

testimony—as to the cross examination of the witnesses, and other declaration of General Lodwick, I beg respectfully to refer to my letter to Government No. 399 under date 22nd October last in which I have, I trust, satisfactorily shewn, that these charges also have no foundation in fact – and as to the assertion regarding the rejection of the proposal of the Resident – “that an agent should be present on the Raja’s behalf” this also, like most of the other assertions in this petition, is a perversion of a simple fact. The proposal of the Resident was, that the Ex Raja should have a Barrister of the Supreme Court of Bombay to defend his cause. This was rejected, and most properly so in my opinion. But the Ex Raja was distinctly informed, that he might have any adviser or advisors he thought fit, and he actually brought with him his brother and his cousin, when he came to hear and answer evidence against him.

The charges in this petition as regards Govindrow Dewan are still more extraordinary. It is stated herein that this person was confined for three years “without charge and without trial” – that he was removed by my advise to almost solitary confinement in a distant fortress, “and that then followed,” on the information of Govindrow’s mother, a fresh accusation against the Raja. This is all false. None of the charges against the Ex Raja or his Dewan rest on the information of Govindrow’s mother, neither was that information the result of his removal to Ahmednuggur. Her petition being dated the 13th December 1836, and his removal having taken place in July 1837. The Dewan, moreover, was tried and fully convicted of an attempt to seduce the soldiers of the British Government from their allegiance. This offence, we know, might justly have subjected the offender to capital punishment. But he was put only under mild restraint. What followed from this ill advised clemency? This – that large sums were sent to Poona to bribe the authorities there, and every species of intrigue set on foot to effect his release, and this not for his sake, but to give the Ex Raja a triumph over the Government – and to prove this, I need only refer to a suit now before the Agent at Poonah for the recovery of 33,000 rupees, being a part of the money so sent, Government is aware that Ahmednuggur was the place whence Govindrow was sent to. But this place, which is only 74 miles from Poona, and one of the best stations on this side of India, can scarcely,

I think, be called "a distant fortress." As to his solitary confinement there, I believe this also to be false as Mr. Hutt, the judge, in whose custody he was placed, will be able to testify. I beg to say, however, that I still maintain the expediency and necessity of that measure. I had reason to know, that Govindrow wished to disclose all he knew. I was anxious that these disclosures should be made before a judicial officer, who knew nothing of these transactions – my only object was truth. I had no hostility to the Ex Raja. He never, I believe, accused me of any. I consider this as the only way of preventing collusion of fraud; as to any confession the Dewan had to make, the event proved the necessity of these precautions. For the confession of Govindrow fully confirmed his own guilt and that of his master – and this, I suppose, is the reason why so much odium is attempted to be thrown on this proceeding.

Great stress, I observe, is laid in this petition on the assertion of the late Viceroy of Goa, that the letters ascribed to him are "utter forgeries". This unsupported assertion of any accomplice, however, can only be taken for what it is worth. It cannot invalidate all the other evidence. It cannot falsify the testimony of twenty four witnesses who cannot all, it is to be presumed, be prejudured. It cannot falsify the banker's books showing the money expended on this intrigue. It cannot falsify all the other letters which have been verified by the writers themselves, and moreover it cannot turn aside the proof obtained in the records at Bombay of the genuineness of the late Viceroy's signature to these very letters, which he now says are forgeries.

With regard to the amnesty in the "new Treaty", as it is termed in this petition, proffered to the Ex Raja by Sir James Carnac, I may, I trust, be permitted to make the following observations. The preamble to this document, to which the petitioners say the Ex Raja objected, simply states – that the inquiries made satisfied the British Government that His Highness had exposed himself to the sacrifice of its alliance and protection. Now can any unprejudiced man read that evidence and say that this is not the fact. Rejecting every portion of that evidence in the least questionable, does not enough remain amply to justify this conclusion. But let us see the term proposed. Simply these to abide in future by the advise of the Resident – to provide for his brother –

to dismiss one of the evil counsellors – and not to injure any person or property of the witnesses guaranteed by the British Government – now let me ask could anything be more moderate or just ? or could less have been demanded ? The Ex Raja's real objection, however, was not to the preamble but to being brought back to the original Treaty. He told me himself he would then be only a " mamlutdar ". His advisers in Bombay assured him he would be released from all control, and this alone was his object, and this fact is proved by his offer to succumb when too late. What then remained to be done ? The Ex Raja had not only rejected the advise of the British Agent, but he had set at defiance the Head of the Government itself, and his deposal became a matter of absolute necessity. It was, in short, a measure forced upon the Government by his own contumacy and breach of that Treaty by which he held his country. But even then he was treated with the greatest leniency no part of his private property was confiscated as is falsely asserted in this petition – on the contrary he was permitted to take with him property to the estimated value of five lakhs of rupees, to which his claim was very doubtful and he had an allowance assigned to him of 10,000 rupees per month, being about 1/10th part of the whole revenue of the Sattara State.

I will now come to the high character given to the Ex Raja and to the abuses heaped upon his successor in this petition. If it be true, as this petition states, that four successive Residents attest the justness of the praise bestowed on the Ex Raja – then I can only say that the present opinion of these officer must be at variance with the opinion recorded by them here whilst in the execution of their duty. Captain Grant, when here, expressed his strong doubts whether " from the extravagant notions of the Ex Raja the bounty of the British Government would be duly appreciated ". General Briggs thought it necessary to warn Government of the Ex Raja's mania for intrigue in the following prophetic words. " He is, however, tenacious of his prerogatives, and will every day more and more resent our control. He has, lately, been flattered by those around him into an erroneous estimate of his own importance, and he has already evinced strong inclinations to extend his connexions beyond the limits prescribed by (the) Treaty. It will be fortunate perhaps for His Highness himself, if events afford this Government an early opportunity to give him

timely warning of the danger of his incurring, or I should be very apprehensive that he may succeed in involving himself in secret communication with those, who may at some future period provoke the resentment of Government, when it is likely a development of a system of intrigue with His Highness may take place, which will altogether shake our confidence, and may lead to his ultimate ruin ”.

General Robertson states, himself, that he knew of this Goa intrigue, and if this intrigue had then been reported to Government, as it ought to have been by General Robertson, and Government had thus had, to use General Brigg's words, an opportunity to give the Ex Raja timely warning of the danger he was incurring he would probably have never perserved in the dangerous course, he was then pursuing. General Lodwick, the fourth Political Agent alluded to, states on his oath, that His Highness had ceased to consult him,— that he had evinced an almost hostile disposition to him, and that he now acted as if independent of the Treaty and of all control, and, finally, that he had proved faithless to his engagements with the British Government. These are the opinions of these officers when on the spot in the execution of their duty here and, therefore, cannot now I presume be evaded or tampered with to serve party purpose elsewhere.

As regards the good Government of the Ex Raja, the country naturally fertile in itself, owed all its prosperity to the rules established for its management by Captain Grant. For a time these were followed up by the Ex Raja, and for this he certainly deserves praise. But dissensions arose between him and General Briggs, which ended in retirement of this officer. General Robertson, it is said, never interfered or listened to any complaints, and General Lodwick did worse than nothing, in as much as, his interference only served to irritate the Ex Raja— and thus all wholesome restraint being at an end, all good Government was at an end also. When I arrived here, the Civil business was entirely in the hands of men who assisted the Ex Raja in his intrigues against the Government. These men were notoriously corrupt the Ex Raja was in their power — and suits were decided and reversed in the most shameless (manner). The criminal business was also neglected — the jails being full of prisoners untried and uncondemned. But the favourite object of the Ex Raja was the

sequestration of all the Jageers, great and small, within his territory, and for this he had met with deserved reproof, both from Sir John Malcolm's Government and that of Lord Clare. Three out of the five great Jageers, however, had fallen under his management, and the various other small estates had been entirely sequestered and in proof of these statements, I beg to refer to the petitions before the British Government at the time of his deposal, to which no redress could be obtained.

Let us now turn to the character of his successor, on whom the grossest abuse is unsparingly lavished by the partizans of the Ex Raja, both in England and in this country. I have had the best opportunities of knowing this Prince, and I may safely bear the witness to his sobriety, temperance and good disposition. It is false that he was the accuser of his brother – on the contrary his name never occurs in the three charges brought against the Ex Raja. The Ex Raja told me himself that he did not blame his brother. The disclosure made to Sir Robert Grant was meant to save not to ruin him. But let us judge of this Prince by his acts, for this surity must be admitted on all sides to be the best criterion.

These may be briefly enumerated as follows :

- 1st. The abolition of the suttee
- 2nd. The abolition of transit duties
- 3rd. The introduction of the Company's Rupee
- 4th. The abolition of the buying and selling of slaves
- 5th. The restoration of the sequestered Jageers, great and small, to their respective owners.
- 6th. The erection of Public works of great extent and utility.

To these substantial proofs of good Government, I beg to add, that the administration, of Criminal and Civil business, here, has once more been placed on a proper footing so that if the present Raja goes on as he was (has) begun, I doubt not that this change will be the means of bestowing the greatest benefit on this country.

There is only one more point in this petition which I consider it my duty to refer to. This relates to the "paper of hints" said to have been sent by the Governor of Bombay to the Resident

Major General Lodwick, and I beg to state that I know nothing of such paper, nor can I find any such paper, or any copy of it, in the records of this office. If such a paper was, therefore, sent to General Lodwick it must evidently have been of a very private and confidential nature, and so, I leave it to Government, and to the Honorable Court to decide whether such confidence should have been so shamelessly abused.

I have thus endeavoured to reply to the accusations against myself in this petition, as well as, to all the other mistatements it contains. I have simply endeavoured to oppose facts, all of which susceptible of positive proof, too vague and unfounded assertions, and I respectfully, but most earnestly entreat, that the Honorable the Governor in Council will be pleased to transmit this letter to the Honorable the Court of Directors, by the earliest opportunity, to be by them laid before the House of Commons, if necessary, as my defence against the false and unfounded aspersions contained in this petition.

No. 22. Sums of money advanced to the Ex Raja of Satara by the Court of Directors. The money to be deducted from the Ex Raja's pension. One of the Vakils of the Ex Raja still in Malta. Rango Bapuji's stay in England with expectation that the Ex Raja may be restored to the throne of Satara. Arrangement to send money to England through Captain Cogan and Sakaram Luxaman. It was feared that the Ex Raja still had funds and should be made to pay the £ 4,000 which he owed to the Court of Directors. (From C. Ovans to J. P. Willoughby)

15th December 1841

Sir,

With reference to your letter No. 3152 under date the 17th ultimo and its accompaniment . . I have the honor to request that you will have the goodness to lay before the Honorable the Governor in Council the annexed translation of a yad No. 266 under date the 10th instant, received from His Highness the Raja of Sattara, stating that the sum advanced by the Honorable the Court of Directors in England, to the Vukeels of the Ex Raja of Satara, is ready and will be paid according to any communication that may come, but suggesting for the reasons therein given, that

this money may be deducted from the pension of the Ex Raja of Satara.

I beg leave also to take this opportunity of laying before Government, the accompanying translation of letters addressed to the Ex Raja of Sattara, of the authenticity of which I have no doubt by which it appears, that one of the Wukeels of the Raja is still at Malta, waiting he says there for the arrival of Captain Cogan. It is also stated in one of these letters, that it is the intention of Bhao (Rungo Bapoojee) to return and stay in England in conformity with the orders of the Surkar, (the Ex Raja) even if the business be effected, until the return of the Swaree (the Ex Raja) so that it may be presumed from this, that any engagements entered into by this Wukeel to leave England, as alluded to in the 1st paragraph of the Honorable Court's letter, are not intended to be adhered to.

I think it necessary also, to call the particular attention of Government, to the scheme alluded to in this correspondence of sending money to England by the Ex Raja, through the medium of Captain Cogan and Sukaram Luxaman, a native connected with the House of Messrs Forbes and Co., as this proves, that the Ex Raja must have funds at his disposal, and affords an additional reason for deducting the 4,000 pounds advanced by the Honorable Court from his stipend, which it will be recollected is about 1/10 part of the whole revenue of the Sattara State.

In conclusion, I respectfully solicit the instructions of Government, as to what amount in Company's rupees should be recovered from His Highness the Raja in exchange of this 4,000 pounds, and when it may be necessary to repay the same to the British Government.

No. 23. Certificate to Ballaji Punt Nathu from Sir John Malcolm, Governor of Bombay, issued on 3rd December 1830 forwarded by Mr. C. Ovens, Resident, to the Bombay Government.

During three years that I have been Governor of Bombay, I have had ample opportunities of appreciating the character of Ballajee Punt Nattoo—and well in my opinion does this distinguished native merit the confidence and friendship, which he enjoyed of the late Sir Barry Close and of the Honorable Mr. Elphinstone.

He has earned his reputation and fortune by the services of twenty six years employ, during which his ability and integrity have been successfully exerted to promote public service. I have employed him continually during my residence in the Deccan, and my tours to the Southern Maratta Country and Guzerat. I have consulted him on all occasions, where the feelings and interests of the population, and the operation of the acts of Government were concerned. I have found his information extensive and his advice honest and good. I am grateful for the aid he has given me, and recommend him to my successors as one, of whom I entertain a most sincere regard as a private individual and a public servant.

No. 24. The Satara Government requested by the order of the Court of Directors to pay the advance of pound 4,000 loaned to the Ex Raja for expenses in England. The vakils of the Ex-Raja in England appealed for help to defray their expenses for the passage back to India. All these financial committments were to be recovered from the Satara State. Arrangements be made to transmit the 4,000 pounds (Rs. 40,000) to the Bombay Government. The mission was sent by the Ex Raja without the consent of the Resident. It was, therefore, suggested that the money may be recovered from the pension paid to the Ex Raja.

Translation of a yad No. 266 from His Highness the Raja of Sattara to the Resident, 1841

A. C.

A yad No. 452 under date the 30th November 1841, has been received from the British Government stating, that a letter has come from Mr. Willoughby, Secretary to Government, under date the 17th November 1841 No. 3152 by order of Government, forwarding copy of a letter dated 25th August 1841 received at Calcutta from the Honorable the Court of Directors from England the same having been transmitted from Calcutta to Bombay and requesting that the orders of the Honorable Court of Directors may be communicated to the Maharaj Surkar and arrangements made for the recovery of the sum of Four thousand pounds paid to the Vakeels of the Ex Raja for expenses in England—so it is stated, and that it is also mentioned in the copy of the letter received from the Hon'ble the Court of Directors, that the Vakeel

of the Ex Raja of Sattara made a representation that they were involved in heavy incumbrances, and had no means of returning to their own country—that a sum of four thousand pounds was consequently paid to them in order to enable them to liquidate their debts, and to defray their expenses of their passage back to India, and that their departure has been duly certified—and that, as at the time when the Vukeels were deputed to that country, the Ex Raja actually held the management of the country—therefore, it may be right that the expenses of the Vukeels should be recovered from that State, and directing that sum may be accordingly recovered from the State—so it is stated—with regard to this—in what manner this sum will be paid by the Maharaj Surkar, let this be arranged and a communication in writing be sent here—and how many rupees are to be paid for the four thousand pounds—this will be ascertained by making a communication to the Bombay Government—and an intimation will be sent (to H.H.)—but this sum will amount to upwards of forty thousand rupees—“so it is stated (in the Resident’s yad).” As to this—the Vukeels deputed by Teerthu Swuroop Rajashree Prutab Shewn Maharaj to make representations in England were not dispatched with the knowledge of the Merban Resident Saheb Bahadoor here—and these people were also forbidden to go by the Bombay Government of Bombay—Still they went away secretly—and the object of their going there was not to effect any arrangement about this country—as to this—there is no objection here to pay the amount mentioned—and the money is ready—and the same shall be paid according to any communication that may come—but it appears advisable to us, that the above mentioned sum should be deducted and recovered from the amount of the monthly pension of the Maharaj (Ex Raja)—therefore this is written. Let the Merban Resident Saheb Bahadoor communicate his opinion on this subject as he thinks proper—and the same will be duly acted upon.

No. 25. Translation of a copy of a letter from Raoji Bapuji to the Ex Raja of Satara regarding Bhao’s* efforts to bring the Raja’s case to the attention of the authorities in England. He is helped in his efforts by Captain Cogan.

*Bhao is Rango Bapuji

No Date

(The covering letter from Mr. C. Ovans, Resident, was not there to these translations but they were certified by him as true translations)

No. 2. Translation of a copy of a letter from Raojee Bappoojee to the Ex Raja of Sattara.

In the service an humble petition of the servant Raojee Bappoojee who placing his head on the feet respectfully represents that up to the 15th November 1841 Kartik Soodh 2nd he is well after this—Teerthu Swuroop Rajashree Bhao has sent a letter from Malta under date the 14th October of the present year, which reached Bombay on the 10th November—stating that a letter from London from Cogan Saheb has been received by one of his friends intimating that he had stated, that he would proceed immediately—but that he was detained on account of some business. He was to embark, however by the steamer of November—when he, and Rungo Bappoojee will proceed to Bombay, but this letter does not state anything as regards the affair of the Surkar, or whether it has been effected or not—but it is written vaguely—unless a visit takes place with them nothing can be known—if he (Mr. Cogan) desires him (Rungo Bappoojee) to follow him to Bombay, and provided the affairs prove unsuccessful—he (Rungo Bappoojee) states that he would not return (to Bombay)—as to this—on seeing this letter, a doubt has risen. If Mr. Cogan Saheb brings Bhao with him, effecting the object in view by the Surkar, it is well—and if not—the Bhao, agreeably to the orders of the Surkar, would not proceed, if desired to go to Bombay without the termination of the Surkar's affairs. It is found to be very difficult, after securing the wishes of Mr. Cogan Saheb, how assistance can be procured in bringing the case before the Parliament. Although the case of the Surkar is just, yet the Bombaywalla (Bombay Government) exercised tyranny—which has already become generally known in England—under these circumstances it is proper for the Bhao to return, but whatever may be settled by the advise of Mr. Cogan Saheb will be right for the most part. Mr. Cogan will not bring Bhao, unless the business of the Surkar is effected. By his (Mr. Cogan's) thinking to take Bhao along with him, it appears, that the case of the Surkar has been decided. It appears, if there was any hindrance, he would not have written

about bringing him along with him after all. Whatever may be concluded by the blessing of the Almighty it will (be) right. The Bhao has forwarded a letter to my address containing the above circumstances, and the same letter in original, I beg to send for the information of the Surkar, from which the whole matter will be understood. Be it known in the service. This is respectful representation.

No. 26. Translation of a letter from Raoji Bapuji fearing that Captain Cogan may bring Bhao back to India without his completing his mission in England.

No Date

No. 3. Translation of a letter from Raojee Bappoojee to Babajee Cheetnuvees.

In the service Raojee Bappoojee who placing his head on the feet, offers his compliments and respectfully represents, that up to the 15th November 1841 Kartik Sood 12th he is well—after this—a letter from Teerthu Swuroop Rajieshree Bhao has been received from Malta, stating that it is the intention of Mr. Cogan Saheb to bring him along with him to Bombay—but he (Mr. Cogan) does not state anything about the case of the Surkar—from which he feels a doubt, and he has consequently written this letter to me with regret, which letter I beg to forward in original for the information of the Surkar—it is dated the 14th October—from this letter the whole circumstances will be known—in short—it does not look well, that Mr. Cogan Saheb should have thought of taking Bhao back along with him—it is the intention of the Bhao to return and stay in England in conformity with the orders of the Surkar—even if the business be effected and until the return of the Swaree*—but in case he returns to London, contrary to the wish of Mr. Cogan Saheb, how this may affect the feelings of Cogan Saheb is the cause of Bhao's anxiety. Still, if he goes back (to England), and makes an application direct without Mr. Cogan Saheb to Parliament and succeeds in obtaining its favourable decision according to the wishes of the Surkar—it may be well—otherwise the same gentlemen who are now favourable will

* The return of the Ex Raja to Satara.

become the contrary. Consequently that direct course will not be admitted by Government without the assistance of European friends. The orders which have been lately received shall be communicated to the Bhao by the mail of the 1st December to England, till which time there is reason to fear, as to the manner in which, the proceedings may be going on there—The Kamgars, however, experience difficulties in every respect—which difficulties will be removed by the virtue of the Surkar itself, and God will have mercy and grant success. Mr. Cogan Saheb will not take Bhao along with him, unless the object in view by the Surkar has proved successful, if there was any hinderance it is customary with European gentlemen to give it up—as to this, Bhao has written vaguely. He does not mention whether the case of the Surkar has proved successful or unsuccessful—the rest appears to be satisfactory—after this it rests with the judgment of the Surkar and yourself. As regards this, letters have been sent containing the circumstances, to be delivered to the Surkar, which after presuing may be presented to the Surkar. Be it known in service. This is my entreaty.

No. 27. Translation of [a letter from Rangu Bapuji stating that Captain Cogan had written to his friend that he would be returning shortly. Rangu Bapuji fears that Captain Cogan might insist on his returning home. He prays to God that he may not return without effecting the Raja's purpose.

No Date

No. 4. Translation of a letter from Rungo Bappoojee to Cheerunjive Rajashree Raojee Bappoojee.

I am well—up to this 14 October 1841 (Thursday). After I had despatched letters for yourself and the Surkar yesterday, a letter has come in the evening from London from the Captain Saheb to one of his friends stating, that he was to come immediately but owing to some business he remained there—that he would embark by the steamer of November, when he and Rungo Bappoojee will proceed to Bombay—this may be made known—but nothing has been stated in that letter as to the case of the Surkar being either successful or unsuccessful — but he writes vaguely — from what

motive he writes so — or what is the difficulty — this cannot be known without his visit — he does not state as to the success of the object in view — but merely mentions about going together. Under these circumstances I entertain great fear — the Almighty God knows what endeavours have made for my remaining (there) —and he now writes thus—from which I am again in distress, and I am entertaining great fear. I wrote to the Surkar, to yourself and to my father that I would not return, God alone can preserve me from this disgrace — otherwise it would be better if God should make me die than to return without effecting the object in view—what is the use of communicating these numerous difficulties and troubles—it will be just as God may decree—still it is in the power of God to provide bread and water—it is my intention, even if the object be successful, and I am desired to return, not to return until the Swaree of the Surkar arrives at Sattara—but this depends on the advise of the European gentlemen—it will occasion their displeasure, but I would not return unless the matter is effected—and after exerting myself to the utmost of my power, I will let you know the result by a communication—such intelligence has been received today—and I have communicated the same for your information. He (Mr. Cogan) is wise enough—and will not wish me, without good reason to follow me after this—I must suffer as my stars decree. I have not written the above circumstances either to Chetru (Benarus) or to my father—these circumstances become known to me after I dispatched letters by the post to the Surkar—I have not communicated it there. I only write them to yourself—as to this—you are to forward the letter after persuing it yourself—and you will inquire about and receive the letter forwarded, through the office of Messrs Pollexfin Milne & Co.,—and also let me know whether the letters dispatched through them in August and September were received or not—what more can be written—let your kindness remain—this is my blessing.

P. S.

Do not be discouraged—it is my duty to communicate to the Surkar and to my father any circumstances coming to my knowledge—God—and also the feet of the Khawund are mighty to remove future calamities.

This is my blessing.

No. 28. A lakh of rupees will have to be given to English friends to promote the Ex Raja's cause. Everything will be done in consultation with English friends. Captain Cogan refuses to communicate directly with the Ex Raja. The Court of Directors was firm in its support of the Bombay Government. No money could be procured from English friends. There was a possibility that the Royal Court would have to be approached. But all this would have to be done with Captain Cogan's aid. And money was to be sent to Rangu Bapuji and not Captain Cogan. No steps were to be taken without the advise of English friends was the Ex Raja's instructions.

No Date

No. 5. Translation of a letter from Raojee Boppoojee to the Ex Raja of Sttara.

In the service an humble petition of the servant Raojee Bappoojee who placing his humble head on the feet respectfully represents that upto the 15th November 1841 Kartik Soodh 2nd he is well—after this letter has been issued by the Surkar to the servant under date the 23rd October of the current year—which reached Bombay on the 9th November -- and the following paragraphs contain the reply thereto.

Raojee Bappajee* was about to set off for the purpose of making known the circumstances—as to this—it has been ordered “that it is unnecessary to send him at present”—and at that Cheerunjive Rajashree Raojee has been informed of the contents of the letter according to orders.

“A letter has been addressed to Rajey Seerkey—as to this—that I should act in concert with him in conformity with the orders. Rajey Seerkey is at present in Poonah.

Raojee Bappajee will explain the circumstances on his coming as regards the one lac of rupees and the same matter has been

* “To prevent misapprehension it may be remarked that this person's name is Raojee Bappajee and the name of the writer of this letter is Raojee Bappoojee they are two different persons”.

(Signed) C. Ovans
Resident

written to Rungo Rao, Sir Charles Saheb and Mr. Cogan Saheb—from which it will be known”—as to this—those letters have not as yet come to me from Poonah—after these letters have reached me—I will persue them—and those circumstances—as also the contents of the letter to my address. I shall duly communicate to Teerthu Swuroop Rajashree Bhao according to the orders of the Surkar. It has been ordered 'to communicate to Sukharam Luxumonjee the particulars of the matter through Raojee Bappajee as to this—the letter containing these circumstance was received by and through Sukharam Luxumonjee which he has handed over to me after he had persued it—the details of that communication have been fully understood by him—and in case, he wishes it to be explained to him by Raojee Bappajee, he will be desired to make the same known to him—and as regards the above sum if there is something more or less in it—it does not matter—But it may be arranged so by him that there may be no deceit, or negligence, or loss in the amount and it will be approved of here. As soon as the object is settled this can then be first arranged without any molestation—Whatever may be done the same should be carefully done by the advise of both the European Gentlemen and no direct course should be adopted as this may occasion a great loss and all the friends will then give it up and also get rid of it. It is, therefore, unnecessary to do anything without their knowledge—it does not matter even if a loss has been occasioned or the proceeding be delayed anything that is to be done should be done with their knowledge. No ground should be given for them to say that our own people were the cause of ruin—consequently, whatever is to be done—the same may be done by the advise of both—“in this manner I should communicate—so it is ordered—with regards to this”. I shall write agreeably to orders by the next steamer and as regards the amount required for expenses in England I inquired of Raojee Bappajee the extent of the sum mentioned in the letter of the Surkar—he informed me that if the Vukeels had occasion to go upon trifling matters to the Vuzeer or members, a Hondee to the amount of four or five thousand rupees should be given to them—and our case represented—which is then heard by them and they afterwards assist at the investigation—the European friends point out this course, and then it is to be adopted by their advise—but it is to be done secretly—such has been the custom of the Court there—where great expenses are likely to be incurred.

But as the Surkar possesses no means to assist or comply with such requisities, it is necessary to obtain the favours of certain European friends by expending a little money in this manner—to adopt such measures the opinion of Mr. Cogan Saheb is necessary—and if a letter be required from Mr. Cogan Saheb as a document—it is not customary to grant it. Formerly, the Surkar received a letter from him, in which he has given a statement of the expenses of the Hoozoor for what purposes this money is required—it cannot be mentioned distinctly—but the expenses to be made will be incurred by the advise of Mr. Cogan Saheb. The Court of Directors persists in repeating that the proceedings adopted by the Bombay Government are firm—and they make their representations in different ways to support their cause—it is, therefore, necessary that the Surkar should endeavour to supply some funds at such a time as this. The European friends there will not supply money. Had they supplied money for expenses—no departure should have taken place by obtaining forty thousand rupees from the Directors. The Bhaoo feels assured that on the case proving successful—the Surkar will provide funds—but no money could be procured in England—how can he help this—finding no remedy he sent me to make supplications to the Hoozoor—Sir Charles Forbes might give his opinion to incur expenses in the Durbar (Court) in England or not—but the representations will not be admitted by the Surkar without the assent of Mr. Cogan Saheb—perceiving this, an application has been made to the Surkar, that means may be afforded to enable Mr. Cogan Saheb to manage the expenses, should the Surkar see fit to send the money—let the same be forwarded in the name of the Bhaoo because it could not be sent in the name of Mr. Cogan Saheb—if the money be forwarded in the name of Mr. Cogan Saheb it will occasion a disgrace—Such is the great difficulty. This Raojee Bappajee said—and the same I have written in the service for information—and I shall write (to Bhaoo) that the Surkar will disapprove of any measures he may adopt without the consent of both the sahebs—Whatever is to be done the same must be done to the extent as may be approved by them.

In all three paragraphs have been written in reply from which everything will be understood. Be it known in the service – this is my entreaty.

No. 29. Letter from the Government of Bombay conveying the displeasure of the Court of Directors to Lieutenant Cristall regarding his explanation of the death of the Senapatti on his way to Benares. (From J. P. Willoughby to C. Ovans).

19th May 1842

Sir,

With reference to your letter dated the 4th February No. 45 of 1841 submitting an explanation from Lieutenant Cristall, late Agent with the Raja of Sattara, in regard to the displeasure expressed by the Honorable the Court of Directors in the 2 @ 5 paras of their despatch dated 4th September 1840, that, that officer did not adopt immediate or more certain means of ascertaining the extent of Balla Saheb Senaputty's illness. I am directed by the Honorable the Governor in Council, to transmit for your information, an extract para : 6 of a further despatch from the Honorable Court, dated 17th November last No. 21 stating, that the above explanation has not altered the sentiments formerly expressed by them on the subject.

Extract para : 6 from a letter from the Honorable the Court of Directors dated 17th November No. 21 of 1841.

6. Lieutenant Cristall's further explanation of his conduct with reference to the Senaputty's illness and death have not altered our former sentiments.

No. 30. Claims of various parties to the estates of the late Senapatti Balla Saheb. Suggestions for a settlement by Lieutenant Colonel C. Ovans. (From C. Ovans to Secretary to the Government of Bombay).

16th September 1842

Sir,

With reference to Mr. Chief Secretary Reid's letter No. 1944 under date the 26th July last, and its accompaniments.. I have the honor to request that you will have the goodness to lay before the Honorable the Governor in Council the annexed translation of a yad No. 101 under date the 27th ultimo, received from His Highness the Raja of Sattara, regarding the claims of this Government against the estate of the late Balla Saheb Senaputty.

By this yad, it will be seen, that His Highness is of opinion that Mr. Reeves should finally decide this case, and, indeed, it is evident, that if after an investigation has been made by this officer, the papers are then to be transmitted to Bunarus to the Ex Raja and the representatives of the deceased, "in order to their being made acquainted with them to admit of assent or objection to the particular items preparatory to a final settlement." This will only lead to further litigation and dispute.

If Mr. Reeves is to inquire into this dispute, it appears to me, that Mookteear's or Agents should be sent by both parties to represent their respective claims, that those Mookteears should have full powers from their principals, and that any papers or evidence required by either party should be furnished by this Government on Mr. Reeves' application for the same.

An appeal might certainly be to the Right Honorable the Governor General should this appear expedient. But the case cannot, I think, after once having been adjudicated by Mr. Reeves be submitted to the Ex Raja of Sattara or to the Defendants for their remarks. If this, indeed, were permitted the Plaintiffs might reasonably claim a similar indulgence, and in this case, these proceedings would be interminable.

It, cannot, also be denied, as it is stated in His Highness's present yad, that the Ex Raja has nothing whatever to do with this affair. It is properly speaking, a case between this Government and one of its own subjects. But His Highness the Raja has waived his own right to inquire into it and has willingly agreed to every proposal that has hitherto been made to effect a settlement. All these concessions, however, have been met by such objections as plainly prove that the object in view at Bunarus is to keep open this discussion.

I would, therefore, very respectfully suggest that orders be issued to Mr. Reeves to commence proceedings in this case, at such time and place as may be fixed upon by Government, and that I may be authorised to request His Highness the Raja and the Jageerdars, then and there, to appear by their Mookteears to represent their respective claims. The representatives of the deceased Senaputtee should be warned in like manner, giving them distinctly to understand that if they do not appear, judgment will

go by default. All papers or witnesses required by Mr. Reeves will be furnished by this Government, and Mr. Reeves' decision will of course be open for the approval or otherwise of the Right Honorable the Governor General. But I beg to state, that unless some decided step of this nature is taken, I fear, there will be no chance of satisfactory or speedy settlement of this affair.

With reference to Major Carpenter's observation in the 3rd paragraph of his letter of the 24th June 1842 and 22nd March 1841, have not been controverted and that therefore, they may be assumed to be correct, I beg respectfully to repeat what I have before stated in the 3rd paragraph of my letter to your address No. 184 under date the 11th June last, viz., that all the misstatements contained in the Memorandum of the Ex Raja of Sattara, and in that of Purshram Rajey Bhonsla (referred to by Major Carpenter), have been fully refuted in my letters to Government and in their accompaniments. But as Major Carpenter does not allude to these replies, I trust, that I may be permitted in justice to the present Raja of Sattara and to myself earnestly to call the attention of Government to these documents.

No. 31. Petition accusing Raja Shahji of taking forcible possession of a bungalow and keeping therein a Mohemmedan mistress. The complaint was made to Mr. Ovans, the Resident, but the Petitioner was told that the Raja could do whatever he liked. The Petitioner hence appealed to the Governor of Bombay. (From the Petitioner to the Governor of Bombay).

16th September 1842

To the Honorable Sir George Arthur K. C. I. E., Governor of Bombay

The humble Petition of Yeshwunt Rao Mulhar, Chitness in the service of Shreemon Maharaj Rajeeshrree Prutap Sinvechutter Putty, Sattara now in exile at Benares.

Most Respectfully sheweth

When the late Raja of Sattara was removed from his throne or gadi, your Honor's Petitioner was confined by Appa Saheb, the brother of the dethroned Prince and Colonel Ovans, the Resident, without any fault, for four and a half months, because your Petitioner was not willingly to be under his guidance. Your Honor's Petitioner was the third judge of Sattara. Appa Saheb found him

innocent and released him but did not pay his salary. Your Honor's Petitioner would give a particular detail of his distresses, whilst in confinement, but considering it too tedious and painful for Your Honor's persual he omits it. At present, there is great oppression towards your Petitioner, for which he begs a favourable consideration, when he applied to the Resident to come to Bunarus—Appa Saheb made a claim against him, and demanded an amount of two thousand rupees (2000), he answered that His Highness, the Ex Raja, had given presents to all which is well known—and that he also had received in the same manner, but in the confusion of this dethronement the karkoon or accountant had forgotten to write it in the account book and if you wish you can write to the Maharaj—whereon Appa Saheb said you may give your bungalow in return for the money—the aforesaid sum is not altogether two thousand rupees, and for the erection of the bungalow your Petitioner expended twelve thousand rupees. Your Honor's Petitioner kept his furniture in the bungalow and servants for its care and came to Bunarus. Eighteen months after his arrival in Bunarus Appa Saheb broke the lock of the bungalow and kept a Mahomedan mistress of Bombay, and spoiled the furniture and property left by me, besides this, it is very improper and injurious to caste and character to keep a Mahomedan in a Hindoo's house. Although, your Petitioner had not first written nor agreed to this. When Bajeerao Peshwa was subdued, the Company did not oppose any of the affairs which he had done in his dominions, or when he was a ruler of his country. All these circumstances mentioned to the Resident but his only reply was that Appa Saheb can do whatever he likes.

Your Honor has great power and authority, therefore, your Petitioner solicits for justice, and humbly hopes for the recover of the bungalow and furniture.

P. S. There is another bungalow in Sattara of my brother who lives in Poona which is also in possession of Appa Saheb. I beg your Honor will make arrangement of the same.*

No. 2548 of 1842

Political Department

The Resident at Sattara is requested to annex his report on this petition.
Bombay Castle
13th October 1842

By order of the Hon'ble the
Governor in Council
(Signed) J. P. Willoughby
Secretary to the Government

No. 32. Lieutenant Colonel Ovans writes in his defence against the accusations of George Thompson at the India House meeting, and states the charges against him of conspiring against the Ex Raja of Satara were utterly false. (From C. Ovans to Secretary to the Government of Bombay).

23rd September 1842

Sir,

Having observed in a newspaper called " The Sun " dated, London, Monday August 1st 1842, that a report has been given of the proceedings of a special General Court of Proprietors of the East India Stock, held at the East India House, on Friday the 29th July 1842, in which Mr. G. Thompson is stated to have read certain papers " reflecting ", as observed by the Chairman himself, " most atrociously " on my character, I trust, you will have the goodness to lay before the Honorable the Governor in Council, the accompanying affidavit made by me declaring on oath that the charges against me in the papers read by Mr. G. Thompson are utterly and entirely false.

As it (was) also reported in The Sun, that Mr. G. Thompson asserted in his speech in the India House on the 29th July last, that copies of these documents had been given to Sir James Carnac, when at Sattara, I beg to submit to Government the accompanying Mahratta papers marked No. 1, 2 and 3 with translations annexed. These being the real Mahratta copies of the Depositions of Hybutrao Bulwunt Seekarkhaney, Anna Sindkur (alias Atmaram Luksumun) and Janoo Bin Krustnajee Bhandaree, given to Sir James Carnac by the Ex Raja.

I beg, also, to add that these Mahratta papers were given in my presence by the Ex Raja of Sattara to Sir James Carnac, when at Sattara, and were immediately handed over to me by the Governor with orders to report upon them, as is proved by my report to Government No. 38 under date the 2nd September 1839 and as these papers have never since been out of my own hands, there can be no doubt of their being the identical papers given by the Ex Raja to Sir James Carnac.

These papars are copies, and it is not usual in the Ex Raja's time for any copies of the papers to be signed by the Ex Raja or by any of his officers. But I have had the hand writing examined,

and the writers are stated to be Bajirao Eshwant Potnees, Seetram Weesunath Sivrey and Dajee Pandoorung Golwurkur, the first two of these men being now at Bunarus with the Ex Raja and the last at the village of Dawulchee near Sattara.

Now, I trust, I may be permitted, to request that the translations annexed to these Mahratta papers may be compared with the depositions read by Mr. G. Thompson, this will at once afford undenial proof of the falsification of the documents produced at the India House by that gentleman, and of the atrocious nature of these proceedings as regards myself.

For the sake of more ready reference, I beg also to forward the annexed extracts marked No. 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 from The 'Sun' newspaper. In extracts marked 4 and 5, called by Mr. G. Thompson the deposition and examination of Haibatrao, dated 16th and 23rd November 1838, as read by Mr. G. Thompson, this person is made to state as follows: "they took us to the Resident Colonel Ovans. The Resident addressed us and said, that if we would consent to the terms proposed by Ballajipunt Natoo and Ballaji Kasi Kibey, he would be responsible for the payment of the money" and again,—"Ballajipunt Natoo and Ballaji Punt Kibey took Atmaram Luksuman and myself to the Resident, in order to remove any doubts we might entertain as to their means of fulfilling the promises they made regarding the jageer of ten thousand rupees and a lac of rupees in cash. On obtaining the Resident's sanction, we forged the papers." Now, no copy of any deposition of Haibatrao, dated 16th November 1838, was given by the Ex Raja to Sir James Carnac, and in the deposition of this person actually given by the Ex Raja of Sattara to Sir James Carnac dated 23rd November 1838, the translation of which is now forwarded, my name is not even mentioned.

Again in the deposition read by Mr. G. Thompson of Anna Sindkur (alis Atmaram Luksuman) dated the 22nd November 1838, and stated to be "abbreviated", this man is made to say: "Ballajipunt Nattoo and Kibey again sent for me and Haibutrao and promising us a jageer and ten thousand rupees, a lac of rupees in cash, and also a pension from the Government of Bombay took us to the Resident Ovans. The Resident promised that all this should be given to us." Whereas, in the copy of the deposition of Anna Sindkur, given to Sir James Carnac by the Ex

Raja dated 22nd November 1838, this man accusing Colonel Lodwick of tampering with him and only refers to me in the following words. "Subsequently Lodwick Saheb was succeeded by Ovan Saheb, when I was sent for and taken to the bungalow, whereas, Ballajee Kasse Kibey and Ballaji Narayan Nattoo were sitting. They addressed me and said that if I got possession of what they desired, the same should be given to them, and the arrangement as had been promised by the Kibey, would be caused to be made, and if I would give the letters at this time, a liberal reward would be granted by the Company's Government, when I answer them I possessed nothing, but Wisswunath Rungrao possessed them."

It is scarcely necessary for me to add, that I am as confident of General Lodwick's innocence of this atrocious accusation, as I am of my own. But this will, I trust, show the friends of the Ex Raja in England how foully they have been duped—for it is impossible to believe that any of them have been privy to so shameless a proceeding.

In the 4th para of my report to Government, under date the 2nd September 1839, above alluded to, it will be seen that I then reported as regards these papers as follows: "The Mahratta paper contained in list No. 3 have reference to the cases of Bhow Lelay—Hybutrao Shikarkhana and others and Chanda Bhora, the particulars of which were reported to Government in my several dispatches. . . . These cases as will be seen, by reference to the letters just alluded to, do not bear on any of the charges considered to be proved against His Highness, and they appear to be produced now to give an impression, that a conspiracy has existed amongst certain officers of the British Government and others, to bring ruin on His Highness, and I beg respectfully to call the attention of Government to the above correspondence which contains all the information I ever possessed of this intrigue."

It may be right, however, to forward again with this report, in order to bring them more particularly to the notice of Government, copies of my letters to Government No. 13 of the 26th February 1839 and its accompaniments, as well as, the accompaniment No. 6 to my letter of the 6th December 1837.

The first of these dispatches, it will be seen, lays before Government the translations of the petition and deposition of the wife and

sister of Hybutrao and Anna Sindkur, stating that her husband and brother had been subjected to severe treatment by the Ex Raja, to induce them to give evidence of a particular kind, but stating it to be my opinion, that the British Government should not interfere.

The second of these papers is a translation of the deposition of the person called Bhow Lelay made before me, on the 27th November 1837, stating that his deposition before the Magistrate of Poona was false, and that he had never seen me before that day. This deposition is witnessed by three persons. One of these witnesses is dead, but I beg to forward translations of the depositions of other two, as to the validity of this statement of Bhow Lelay.

It may elucidate this case also to forward translation of a yad from the Ex Raja, under date the 11th August 1838, requesting that application might be made to the authorities at Poonah, to send Anna Sindkur who was charged with robbery by the Ex Raja to Sattara and who, it is stated, in this yad "resides at Poona" and this man was accordingly sent here by the Magistrate, and duly delivered up by me to the Ex Raja.

It would appear, therefore, from this yad, that Anna Sindkur had not been for some time at Sattara and it is to be recollected, that I did not come to Sattara as Acting Resident until June 1837. But when all the forged papers themselves are dated in November 1836, it is very clear, that I could not even on their own showing, have had anything to do with them, and that, such is the actual date affixed to these papers will be seen by reference to accompaniments No. 14, 15 and 16 of this letter, the first being a translation of the forged paper given to Sir James Carnac by the Ex Raja, with the papers alluded to in the 2nd and 3rd paragraphs of this letter, and the other two being accompaniments No. 1 and 17 of my letter to Government No. 6, under date the 26th January 1839.

Two or three, of the parties concerned in this plot, were in confinement on the deposal of the Ex Raja, and were relieved in the same manner, as all the other persons concerned in these intrigues were released by the present Raja, on their finding security for their future good conduct. But, I understand, that they are all still here, except Anna Sindkur, who, I hear, is at Baroda,

so that they may be subjected to any examination which Government may see fit to direct.

The above is a plain statement of facts of this case. These facts are also proved by the documents now submitted, and, I think, I may safely appeal to Government, to say if the accusations stated, to have been read by Mr. G. Thompson at the India House on 19th July last, can possibly have any foundations.

If these atrocious libels, however, were read by Mr. G. Thompson in the presence of the Honorable Court of Directors, and in presence of the Proprietors, then I beg to say that I put myself as a public officer under the protection of the Court, and earnestly solicit that the Law Officers of the Company may be directed to prosecute that gentleman for these libels.

But if this should not be deemed advisable, then I earnestly solicit permission to institute proceedings myself against Mr. G. Thompson, and in this case I beg, that the Honorable Court will be pleased to grant an order to my law advisers, for any papers they may require, to lay before the Court of Law to prove my case.

In conclusion, I beg to request, that you will lay before Government, the accompanying original Mahratta documents, being the depositions of Ballajee Punt Nattoo and Ballajee Kasi Kibey denying on solemn affirmation the accusations against them read by Mr. G. Thompson in the India House on the 29th July last.

No. 33. Translation of papers of Interrogatories of various accusers of the Ex Raja. Extracts from the "Sun" newspaper. The evidence recorded accuses C. Ovans, the Resident, Ballaji Punt Nathu and Ballaji Kasi Kibey as the instigators of the false evidence against the Ex Raja. Statements of their defence as given by them expressing their innocence.

*No. 1. Translation of a copy of paper of interrogatories of Hybutrao Bulvunt Seekarkaney dated November 1838. **

* Accompaniments of a letter No. 357 addressed to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay in the Political Department under date the 23rd September 1842, i. e., the above letter.

Question 1.

You having written certain forged papers with your own hand have affixed thereupon the genuine seals from the Jamdar Khan—as to this—who instigated you to do so—where were the seals desired to be brought by them—whether they advised the seals to be brought out how—what is the use of stamping the letters with such seals. What are the particulars of this circumstances—what persons or person advised this, and what was their intention regarding this—who are combined with you—state in detail the circumstances according to the truth from beginning—dated, 23rd November of the above year.

Reply to this

Anna Sindkur told me that the Kebey desired him to take out and give him the seal—and he promised to grant us some villages to the amount of ten thousand rupees—but the seal could not be obtained—then about fifteen Dowls and ten or eleven letters were prepared—the Jamdar Janoo Bhandaree and Wissunath Rungrao being then present dated as above.

Question 2.

In the reply to the first question you have stated that Anna Sindkur said that the Kebey desired the seal to be brought, and that he promised to grant you villages of ten thousand rupees—as to this—which Kebey was he—state his name in writing—as the seal could not be brought out, fifteen Dowls and ten or eleven letters were prepared—as to this—with whom were these letters—and to whom were the Dowls given—and with whom are they now—state these circumstances as stated as above.

Reply to this

Anna Sindkur mentioned this in the name of Gunpatrao Kebey—on which the seals were affixed by me and Janoo Bhandaree gave the seal. Wissunath Rungrao gave the order. Bappoojee Annundrao and Anna Sindkur were near us—some of them were affixed by Wissunathrao in the room of the Jamdar-khanah, where we having sat down, between the two pillars, with our faces towards the east, sealed there the fifteen Dowls and eleven letters. Two of these letters were carried away by Bappoojee

Annundrao, and the rest were carried off by me. These letters were kept at my house and they were stolen by Anna Sindkur. He gave them to Wisswunath Rungrao. Anna Sindkur and Wisswunath Rungrao, when they were proceeding to Bombay, put one of the letters and two Dowls within certain boards, used as book covers, and gave them, which boards were kept with Luxumon Bramin at Mahim—where they are still—Anna Sindkur, in Wisswunath Rangrao's house, divided between themselves the remaining letters and Dowls which were with them. They got possession of them direct. After some time, they committed a robbery in the Jamdar Khanah, certain ornaments, forming part of this robbery, and some money etc., from the nuzzurs have been embezzled, and also certain ornaments have been changed, and the memorandum of the weights of pearls in chow altered by Bappoojee Annundrao, and Anna Sindkur has made a great many false accounts of receipts and expences and ornaments etc., have been debited under the head of Teyjeram Juwaheer. Many receipts and expences are put down in the accounts of the sowkars—they also swore to the effect that whosoever shall divulge this he would be a person born of a mahar. Afterwards, nothing was allowed to be discovered, before the inquiries which took place—subsequently, Jannoo Bhandaree was imprisoned on account of the robbery in the weights. I then stated to Annundrao, that my companion was in confinement, and that he should be caused to be released—and that a sealed paper would be handed over to him—when he said, that if he obtained a sealed paper, there was no necessity for the writing—this I said near a chupper near the house of Annundrao—and then myself and Rungrao ascertained from Janoo by means of Bheemee, as to his wishes, whether we could get him released on giving the sealed paper or how? We then received a message by Bheemee, if he was to be heeded positively, we should then procure his release, otherwise not to ruin the Raja—thus it remained without anything being done—afterwards, I proceeded to Bombay and deposited the pieces of boards with Luxumon Bramin, without his having any knowledge of the papers inside, but I said that they belonged to a Pothee (religious book)—previous to my departure to Bombay, Anna Sindkur was living in the new Peith, where he had the papers with him. One day, Seetaram Gopall said that Anna Sindkur was about to make over the sealed Dowls to the Sahab—I then went to his lodging and told him, that I should in

the first place kill me and then take away and make over the Dowls—he then did not make them over. Subsequently, I thought in my mind, that it was improper for the sake of the robbery and our own lives to ruin the Raja, but Anna Sindkur entertained great hopes, he then went to Poonah and had a consultation with Bhao Lelay—when Bhao Lelay said that Bulvuntrao Chitnees was in confinement there—and that he had procured a person who could write the debts the same as he (the Chitnees) does—this he could effect and the pension could be obtained from Anna Bhao Lelay and myself—when Bhao Lelay was earnestly requested not to do this, he agreed not to do it—and then he assured me, that if the Maharaja would give him a large sum, he would reverse it—dated as above. In the handwriting of Hubutrao Bulvunt.

No. 2. Translation of a copy of a yad of questions put to and answers given by Anna Sindkur alias Atmaram Luximon dated November 1838.

Question

You have written forged letters with your own hand, and have affixed the genuine seals thereon from the Jamdar Khanah, some of which letters have been shown to you—as to this—who instigated you to do so—and to what place were the seals caused to be brought out or how—what is the reason of affixing the seals on such letters—what are the particulars of these circumstances—what persons are concerned and how far are they concerned in this—who are joined with you—state all the circumstances as the same may be true on this subject from the beginning dated 22nd November.

Reply to this

The reason of drawing out forged papers, and of affixing genuine seals thereon is, that as I have a friendship with Gunputrao, the nephew of Ballajee Kasseebey, he having taken me to his house, to the upper storey caused an interview between myself and Ballajee Punt at night time—when a conversation took place—he Ballajee Kasseebey said that a difference had arisen between his Surkar and the Maharaj Surkar—as to this—he desired me to

bring these the seal, which was in my karkhana, as he had to contrive some thing—and that he would return it to me as soon as the business in view was done. By doing this, the Company Surkar would do good to me. To this, I answered the Kebey, what was the causes of obtaining it without having letters written and marked by the kamgars with their own hands, who transacted His Highness's business, and also without having the marks thereon made by His Highness with his own hands—what was the use of the seal—when Kebey said, that he received letters, yads etc., from the Maharaj Surkar on His Highness's own business, which bore the marks of His Highness's own kamgars—and that he could take out these marks and paste them to other papers and impress seals upon them—that it was not possible for him to tell this thing to me—but as there was no difference between him and me—he told me—and that I should also consider the same, an act with him in like manner. Afterwards I received some letters from his nephew Gunpatrao Kibbay—some of them having certain intimations written by him with his own handwriting. But as I did not succeed in my attempt to take out the seal, I told the Kibbey that the seal could not be obtained. Upon this he desired me to cause some letters to be drawn out by one of the Maharaj's kamgars containing reasonable circumstances—and said that, he would cause me to be satisfied by Lodwick Saheb on the subject. To which I agreed, and went up to the fort to visit Lodwick Saheb, where there was a chuprasee of the Saheb who had received orders from him. The Saheb was then in the room within the Dewankhanah, where he (the chuprasee) took me, and made an interview between the Resident Saheb and myself, and he went to a distance. The Saheb then told me, that I might without entertaining any doubt, do according to the suggestion that would be made to me by Ballajee Punt Kibbay, and that an arrangement would be made for me through the Company Surkar. Such was the assurance given to me by the Saheb. At this time I had with me Seetaram Gopall Khurseekur. The chuprasee made him sit down below and took me alone to the upper storey to the Saheb. I told this circumstance to the Kebey, who then said, that if I prepared the letters with the seals thereon, as he had desired, he would cause an arrangement for me to be effected by the Saheb. In consequence of this I informed Hybutrao Bulvent Seekarkaney and Wisswunath Rungrao of

this circumstance – when the letters were prepared some of these were written by Bappoojee Anundrao Chitnees with his own hand and the others were written by three of us. The letters were shown to Ballajee Katrey and the Kibbay – they said, the letters and marks should be put on them in the exact manner as the Kamgars used to do, and the genuine seals affixed thereto. Upon this the letters were given to Wishwunath Rungrao to be marked accordingly and sealed. He, having put the marks and sealed thereon, kept the letters with him and told me that my business was ready, and that I should give them the letter to the Kibbey, after the arrangement as promised being effected. When I went to Kibbey, and told him that his business was accomplished on my part, and that he might take the letters after making an arrangement for us. The Kibbey, having taken a copy with his own hands of the letter addressed to certain sowkars, told me that he would give me an answer early in the morning. After two or three days I went to him at night, when he told me that a jageer of ten thousand rupees, and a reward of fifty thousand rupees and also a pension of five thousand rupees per mensem would be caused to be settled on us, and that until the business was effected nothing would be obtained; but that at present, he would pay us a sum of five thousand rupees for expenses, and he desired me to give him the letters bearing the seals. I, however, did not agree nor did I give the letters. Gunputrao Kibbey wrote some letters to me with his own hands, containing certain letters, and desiring me to give the letters to him in question. Subsequently, Lodwick Saheb was succeeded by Ovans Saheb, when I was sent for and taken to the bungalow where Ballajee Kasseo Kibey and Ballajee Narrain Nattoo were sitting. They addressed me and said, that if I got possession of what they desired, the same should be given to them – and the arrangement, as he had promised by the Kibey, would be caused to be made, and if I would give the letters at this time, a liberal reward would be granted to me by the Company's Government – when I answered them I possessed nothing but Wisshwnath Rungrao possessed them. As I gave this answer, the next day Ballajee Punt Kebey sent his brother-in-law and took Wishwunath to his house but as the latter came late, the Kibey went to the bungalow, where he Wishwunath was taken. In the meantime Ballajee Punt Nattoo had gone home, and therefore no interview took place between

the Kibey and the Nattoo. When the brother-in-law of Ballajee Punt Kibey told Wishwunath, that as the Nattoo had gone home, he should now go away – but that he might come whenever, he might be sent for. Wisswunath then returned. But as the Surkar was informed of Wiswunath's going to the bungalow he was not again sent for. Afterwards, when I understood that Bapajee Senvee, a karkoon of Ballajee Punt Nattoo, used to come at night to Wiswunath's house I took from his handkerchief three letters and two blank Dowls, being in all five papers, and kept the same with me a yad of four sheets given by me separately contains also details of circumstances – and I have now given true statement from the beginning in my proper senses – dated as above.

No. 3. Translation of a paper of interrogatories of Janoo Bin Cristnajee Bhandaree dated November 1838.

Question

You were employed in the Jamdar Khanah, and Anna Sindkur, Hybutrao Bulvunt and Bapoo Annundrao, these karkoons were employed as writers in the Department through Wisshwunath Rungrao – as to this – yourself and the three karkoons have made out certain forged and treasonable papers and affixed thereto genuine sikkas from the Jamdarkhanah – in consequence of your being in the Jamadarkhanah, the keys sometimes remained with you. How were the sikkas affixed to those papers? Who took them out and made them over from the box? State all this truly in writing, and if any misrepresentation be made, and the affixing of the sikkas be proved against you hereafter – it will not be safe. You are, therefore, directed to state the truth in writing as to how the sikkas came into their hands – dated 29th of the said month.

Reply to this

Anna Sindkur, Wisswunath Rungrao, Hybutrao and Bappoo Chitnees wrote and prepared the papers, and said to me, that the Surkaree sika should be given to them. On which I told them I had no orders to give them the sika, neither was the key of the sika box with me. Wisswunath Bhao then said, that there is no necessity for the Surkar's order, Anna Sindkur has made a settlement after visiting the Saheb by means of Ballajee Punt Kibbey— certain papers should be prepared and given to the British Govern-

ment, and rewards of enam villages and pensions will be obtained for us—on which we have made the papers—and on this being made over to them, after affixing the sikas to them, a good provision will be made in our favour, from which a share will be given to you to fulfil this. They will not fail—in this manner they assured me, and said that they would not discover or disclose my name for having given the sika to them. Thus Wisswunath told me. I then took from the havaldar the key of the box in which the sika was kept, telling him that some ornaments were required—and then I took out the sika and made it over to Wisswunath who after affixing it to the papers, returned it to me, and I again deposited it in the box, and returned the key to the havaldar—after this whether the papers were given to them or not is not known to me. These are the circumstances that took place, and are stated writing in my perfect senses—under the above date—in the hand-writing of Umnajee Morashwar Deshpoday—Prant Waee.

No. 4. Extract from the "Sun" newspaper dated London, 1st August 1842, Monday

Mr. G. Thompson said :

The first document he would refer to was a letter from the Raja to his Agent in London, dated Buares, April 3rd, 1842.

The Raja, with the letter referred to, sent documents, copies of which had been given to Sir James Carnac when at Sattara. The first was the deposition of Bapuji Annundrao—"In the last year (1837) after the secret Commission had sat at Sattara, Hybutrao, Atmaram Luxumon and Wissunath Rao the last being the head of the Raja's Jamdarkhanah, or household treasury, and myself formed a conspiracy for the purpose of bringing down the wrath and power of the Bombay Government on His Highness the Raja of Sattarra. To effect this—we resorted to fabrication of papers and letters by means of which we had no doubt, that we should be able to accomplish our purpose. Our proceedings, however, having been prematurely discovered, I deemed it prudent to wait on the Raja Bhoslay Senaputty, Commander-in-Chief of His Highness the Raja's forces, and make an open confession of all we had done, soliciting at the same time forgiveness for the past—

Bapaji Annundrao

No. 5. The second was the deposition of Hybutrao, a person employed in the Raja's household treasury, taken at Sattara on the 16th November 1838.

“Some time in 1837 Ballajee Punt Nattoo and Ballajee Kassee Kibey, the Resident's head native and Nattoo's intimate friend sent for Atmaram Luksmon and myself and taking us to a private apartment asked, if we were willing to forge some papers in the name of His Highness the Raja of Sattara, promising us a jageer of ten thousand rupees (1000 pounds) besides a lac of rupees ready money (10,000 pound), we agreed and shortly after we forged and took the papers to them. Ballajee Kassi Kibey took a copy of them. These papers were letters, we wrote in the name of the Raja, and only required His Highness's seals to be affixed to make them appear genuine. Ballajee Punt Nattoo and Ballajee Kassee Kibey then directed us to get the letters sealed, but before this was done, they took us to the Resident, Colonel Ovan. The Resident addressed us, and said that if we would consent to the terms proposed by Ballajee Punt Nattoo and Ballajee Kasi Kibey he would be responsible for the money. On this assurance, being made by the British Resident, we returned and got the seals impressed upon these documents by Janoo Bhandaree, the Jamdar (or keeper of the Raja's seals called sicka or mortul)—Haibut Rao.

No. 6. Examination of Hybutrao at Sattara on the 23rd of November 1838 with reference to the above deposition.

The prisoner having been enjoined to speak the truth, the following questions were put to him in the presence of the Raja.

Q. “Do you still adhere to the statement you made in your deposition as to the person therein named and the circumstances mentioned?”

A. “Yes. Ballajee Punt Nattoo and Ballajee Kasi Kebey took Atmaram Luksumun and myself to the Resident, in order to remove any doubt we might entertain, as to their means of fulfilling the promises made regarding the jageer of ten thousand rupees and the lac of rupees each, on obtaining the Resident's sanction we forged the papers.”

Q. “How many letters and papers did you forge with the Raja's seal?”

A. "Eleven letters and twenty five other papers altogether thirty six documents."

Q. "How many persons were there in the conspiracy?"

A. "Atmaram Luxumon, Visswunath Rao, Bappoojee Annundrao, myself and Janoo Bhandaree, the keeper of His Highness's seals."

Q. "To whom were the papers given and how many are still remaining?"

A. "Atmaram Luxumon gave me one letter and two other papers and the rest were in the possession of the other three individuals. The three documents which were in my possession, I took to Mahim near Bombay and put them for safety into the hands of Lushmon Bramin and Nana Gurao and Bhawu Leley; and Atmaram Luxumon informed me that they had found a man who could forge the handwriting of Balla Saheb Chitness, His Highness's Secretary - The above is true and correct statement of facts."

No. 7. Now, Sir take another depositions it is the deposition of Atmaram Luxumon (abbreviated), taken at Sattara on the 29th November last.

This person was brought from Poonah at the request of the Raja addressed to the Resident Colonel Ovans. I am acquainted with Gunputrao Kebey, the nephew of Ballajee Kasi Kebey, through him I became acquainted with his uncle, to whose house I was taken - Ballajee Kasi Kebey asked me to get the Raja's seals for forging papers. I said, I would, but I did not succeed in my attempt to get them. Ballajee Punt Nattoo and Kebey again sent for me and Hybutrao, and promising us a jageer of ten thousand rupees, a lac of rupees in cash and also a pension from the Bombay Government took us to the Resident, Colonel Ovans. The Resident promised that all this would be given to us. Depending then, on all this assurance, we returned and got the Raja's seals from Janoo Bhandari, after which Hybutrao, Wishwunath Rao, Bappoojee Annundrao and myself affixed them to the forged papers. Bhavu Leley, on a subsequent occasion, took some of these from my handkerchief. This is true and correct statement.

signed Atmaram Luxumon

No. 8. Now, Sir, for one of the keeper's of His Highness's seal—"Deposition of Janoo Bhandari, the person having the custody of His Highness's seals taken on 29th November 1838. Wishwunath Rao, Atmaram Luxmun and Hybutrao spoke to me on the subject of the papers and said, that if I would join them in their project, Ballajee Punt Nattoo and Ballaji Kasi Kebey would be the means of obtaining for us a jageer of ten thousand rupees in money, besides a pension for all of us guaranteed by the Resident Colonel Ovens. After this, I gave up the seals, which Hybut Rao put upon the papers and returned to me. This is all I know of the circumstances. Signed by Wamnajee Moreshwar for Janoo Bhandari. (Not knowing how to write)*

No. 14. Translation of a letter written by Haibutrao said to be forged given to Sir J. Carnac by the Ex Raja of Sattara.

Seal

Swuatee Shree Raja Bheeshek Sukey 1763 Doormookhnam Suvuntchurrey Karteek Buhool 13th (21st November 1834) from Kshutrees Koolavutus Shree Raja Prutap Sinh Chutruputtee Swamee (H. H. the Raja of Sattara) to Sumust Raj Karya Dhoorundhur Vishwas Niddhee Raj Mania Rajushri Bajerao Pundit Prudhan.

You are hereby directed that the consequences of your family disputes have caused the English to come, the Raj (Government) has been lost owing to your inattentions and you did not think of

* Nos. 9 and 10 were letters from the Resident at Satara with accompaniments and translations of a deposition of Bhao Leley of 27th Nov. 1837. Both the documents were not in the file. No. 11 was a deposition from Mahadajee Gungadhur Putwurdhun testifying to the deposition of Bhasker Wisswunath alias Bhao Leley given in the presence of the Resident Ovan Saheb Bahadoor. What the deposition of Leley was, we do not know, as there was no copy of it in the file. No. 12 was a translation of a deposition of Mahadajee Gungadhur Putwardhun's testimony that he was present when Bhao Leley gave his deposition and he was called upon to testify to it being given by his own free will. No. 13 is a letter from the Raja of Sattara to the Resident dated 11th August 1838. The letter gives one Babajee Bin Kedaree Chuwan bearing testimony to the theft of a neckless of rubies and emeralds stolen from the Juwaheer Khana by Atmaram Luxumon or Anna Sindkur. Chuwan sold it to one Krustnajee bin Rajhoo Sinda Sangleekur. The Raja requested the arrest of Anna Sindkur, who was accordingly then in "Sudasew Peyt" in Poona, by the Resident at Sattara.

the Government – there the malediction of the people has fallen upon you – of which if you wish to be cleared you should supply whatever money etc., may be required by the old servants, who are at the Hoozoor, and who by exerting their valour to the utmost are about to commit a general slaughter – then you will be acquitted of the malediction – and your rank will remain with you. Be it known 11th Shaban. What more need be written – Soodna Usso Mortub.*

A

Affidavit

Whereas in a letter addressed to the Chairman of the Honorable the Court of Directors by Mr. General Lodwick, dated London, June 14th 1842, and which at the General Court of the East India Company, held on Monday the 27th June 1842, was directed to be printed. I am accused of “purchasing evidence” against the Ex Raja of Sattara – meaning thereby, as I understand these words – that I paid money to the witnesses to induce them to give evidence against the Ex Raja.

I, Charles Ovan Lieut. Colonel of the Bombay Army, and Resident at Sattara, do hereby solemnly make oath and depose, that this accusation is utterly false and that, I never directly or indirectly, purchased the evidence of any witnesses or witnesses whatever, against the Ex Raja of Sattara as above set forth.

(signed) Charles Ovans
Lieutenant Colonel

Taken on solemn affirmation before me at Sattara this twenty first day of September 1842.

(signed) James Whitmore
Captain Superintend of Bazar

Witnessed by us :

(signed) Fred Hickes – Lieut. Colonel
2nd Grenadt. Regiment N. I.
(signed) E. P. Williams
Chaplin, Bombay Army
(signed) William Erskine,
Surgeon, Bombay Army

*Nos. 15 and 16 were with the former letters of the Resident No. 6 of 26th January 1389 (Secret Dept.). This was the remark in the margin b no letters in the file.

B

Translation of a Deposition of Ballajee Narrain Nattoo - dated Soorsun Sullas Arbyn Muya Tyn oulf (A. D. 1842/43)

At a meeting of the Honorable the Court of Directors, held in Europe on the 29th July 1842, certain papers on the Ex Raja of Sattara were read - and which were published in Europe. Newspapers under the 1st August of the current year, and in which some false circumstances regarding me are stated. So it is understood by me. On which, a translation Mahratta of the same, was made and seen by me which states as follows.

It is stated in the reply to the 1st Question of Hybutrao - " that Ballajee Punt Nattoo and Ballajee Kassee Kebey took me and Atmaran Luxumon before the Resident, in order to satisfy us as to any doubt we might entertain regarding the jageer to the amount of ten thousand rupees and a lac of rupees in cash promised to be given to us - and that in consequence of the orders given to us by the Resident we made certain forged papers ".

In the deposition of Atmaran Luxumon, it is stated, that Ballajee Punt Nattoo and Kebey sent to invite me and Hybutrao, and began to assure us that a jageer to the amount of rupees ten thousand, a lac of rupees in cash and a pension would be granted to us by the British Government - and took us into the presence of the Resident Charles Ovans Saheb - when the Resident Saheb promised that all these would be obtain by us.

Janoo Bhundaree Jamdar states in his deposition - " that Atmaran Luxumon and Hybutrao said to me, that if I joined in their design, Ballajee Punt Nattoo and Ballajee Kassee Kebey would be the means of obtaining for us a jageer of rupees ten thousand and a pension, as promised to us by Colonel Ovans, the Resident, on which I gave the mortubs."

In this manner, it is stated, in that printed paper-with regard to this. These statements are all false and slanderous. I never saw Atmaran and Hybutrao, as long as the Ex Raja of Sattara continued at Sattara. I never sent for him, nor do I know that they came to the bungalow, neither did I say that the jageer etc., would be given to them (to) the Resident Saheb. This is truly

stated by me writing remembering God under date 21st September 1842.

(signed) Ballajee Narrain Nattoo by my own handwriting at Sattara

(This was testified to in the same manner and by the same persons who testified the Affidavit of the Resident Mr. Charles Ovans.)

C

Translation of a Deposition of Ballajee Kassee Kebey nisbut the Resident, Illaka Sattara, dated A. D. 1842

It having come to my knowledge, that a printed newspaper called London Sun, under date the 1st August 1842, has been received from Europe, in which it is said that the case of the Ex Raja of Sattara has been published, and in which the depositions of Hybutrao and Atmaram Luxumon are printed also—declaring that in the year A. D. 1837, they were both sent for and taken to the bungalow of the Saheb by Ballajee Punt Nattoo and Ballajee Punt Kibbey, and there told by them secretly, that you should make some forged papers, and an arrangement would be made to allow you a jager of rupees ten thousand and a lac of rupees in cash. After saying this, both of them carried both of us into the presence of Colonel Ovans Saheb, Resident. Afterwards, the Resident gave us an assurance that you should effect the object in view as desired by these persons, when you would be paid as promised by them. This was told us by the Resident Saheb". Such is the contents as I have heard of their Depositions—as to this—the above statement is all totally false. I am not acquainted with Hybutrao and Atmaram Luxumon, neither did any visit take place between me and them, either at the bungalow or elsewhere, nor did I send for them, nor did any conversation take place between us. I never took them before Colonel Ovans, the Resident, nor do I know any circumstances regarding the forged papers—the statement made in the depositions of both of them is entirely unfounded. This is written by me truly remembering God (in my heart), under date the 21st September 1842

(signed) Ballajee Kassee Kebey
in my own handwriting at Sattara

(Testified to by the same persons who testified for the Resident and Ballajee Punt Nattoo)

Extract from the " Sun " newspaper dated London,
August 1st 1842 Monday.*

The Honorable Proprietors then went into a heavy lengthened argument to prove that a document, purporting to proceed from the mother of Govindrao, the Minister of His Highness, and containing evidence of the Raja's guilt, was an utter forgery, the forger had himself confessed his criminality to Colonel Ovans in September 1837, and delivered up all his papers, but although Colonel Ovans had before given to the Government of Bombay a totally different account of the authorship, he, nevertheless, concealed the existence of these documents for eleven months and only then divulged them on accidental discovery of the plot of the Raja. These papers we will publish hereafter. The first account of the petition of Govindrao's mother criminating both her son and the Raja was in a letter of Colonel Ovans dated 7th July 1837, and although the deposition of the forger was given to Colonel Ovans by the man himself personally, on the 20th September, Colonel Ovans only sent the deposition and accompanying documents on the 16th August 1838. Mr. Thompson contended, that he had now proved the necessity of going into the discussion of the whole question.

True Extract
(signed) C. Ovans
Resident of Satara

No. 34. Lieutenant Colonel Ovans refutes the charges of Major General P. Lodwick that he had a hand in purchasing evidence against the Ex Raja of Satara. He also takes the opportunity to answer several other charges brought against him by Major General Lodwick before the Court of Directors. (From C. Ovans to Secretary to the Government of Bombay).

*Accompaniment of a letter addressed to the Secretary to Government of Bombay in the Political Department, under date the 27th September 1842.

23rd September 1842

Sir,

Having observed, in a letter addressed by Major General Lodwick to the Chairman to the Honorable the Court of Directors under date the 13th June last, which letter at the General Court of the East India Company held on the 27th of the same month, was ordered to be printed – that Major General Lodwick accuses me of “ purchasing evidence ” against the Ex Raja of Sattara, I beg you will have the goodness to lay before the Honorable the Governor in Council, the accompanying affidavit, in which I declare on oath, this accusation to be entirely false*.

Understanding these words in the sense I do namely, – that I paid money to the witnesses to induce them to give evidence against the Ex Raja, I am constrained, as my only mode of defence to reply to this accusation in this solemn manner, and I earnestly implore the Honorable Court to call upon Major General Lodwick either to disallow these charges, or to prove it, or in failure of this to subject that officer to such judicial inquiry as this case may appear to demand.

Having thus disposed of the most serious part of Major General Lodwick's letter, I trust, I may be permitted to say a few words on the other charges brought forward against me in this production (prosecution).

These are – that in considering the case of the Ex Raja, I stated I would be guided by “ political expediency,” and that I had been guilty of a “ gross misstatement ” in quoting Major General Lodwick's assertion, that the Ex Raja had proved faithless to his engagement with the British Government.

As regards the phrase “ political expediency,” I beg to state, that it is not one I ever used, and it certainly is not a principle I have ever been guided by. It is very difficult to recollect conversations which passed six years ago, but I think, I may safely say General Lodwick's memory has been as treacherous on this, as on many other points.

But as Major General Lodwick confesses in his letter to the Court of Directors, under date the 9th October 1840, page 27 that

* The Affidavit is already given

he himself sacrificed his judgment to political expediency in the Ex Raja's case, perhaps, he does not attach the criminality to this as I do, and it certainly would seem that by a failure of memory General Lodwick has put his words into my mouth.

I can safely say, however, that I was guided in this question solely, by an earnest desire to pronounce an honest verdict, as to the guilt or innocence of the Ex Raja, and that no other feeling was mixed up in my mind of any kind whatsoever.

With regard to the exposition which General Lodwick affirms, he made as to his own honor and honesty, I cannot certainly recollect any occasion calling for so unusual a declaration, and I appeal to every honest man, whether it is customary to make a parade of such sentiments in the manner here described.

The "gross misstatement" of which I am accused is also easy to answer. The words "proved faithless to his engagements with the British Government" do not certainly (appear) in the proceedings of the Commission. I never said they did, these words are given by me as a separate extract, and marked as such in my letter of the 25th November 1841. But, if General Lodwick will turn to the 1st paragraph of his own letter, under date the 9th September 1836, in the appendix A to the proceedings of that Commission, there he will find these words as extracted by me.

General Lodwick accuses me of another misstatement in saying that Ballajee Punt Nattoo was on his oath before that Commission. It is certainly not so stated in those proceedings. But he was on his solemn affirmation, at least so I understood him to be, and so he understood himself to be. But as to the assertion of General Lodwick that on his evidence "was subsequently raised the conspiracy of the Raja with the Viceroy of Goa and with the Ex Raja of Nagpoor" this is mere fiction.

I have been induced to correct General Lodwick's assertions on these points, as on my imputed inaccuracy, he impugns the other documents forwarded by me to Government. In such a voluminous mass of papers, errors certainly have crept in, though certainly no intentional ones. But when it is recollected that, without a single European assistant, I had to conduct so intricate an inquiry and arrange and translate so many papers, and carry on at the same time all the current business of this office. I may

honestly, I think, congratulate myself that so few errors have been made.

General Lodwick makes it a matter of reproach against me, my being armed as he calls it, with "inquisitorial powers" and that I state, that the Raja's advisers were corrupt and worthless and, moreover, that I advised the Raja to be suspended from his authority.

That Government was pleased to confide in me, I gratefully acknowledge, but that the confidence so reposed in me was ever abused I solemnly deny. Can General Lodwick, or any other person, point out one single instance of wrong or oppression on my part?

That the Ex Raja's advisers were corrupt and worthless, what does General Lodwick himself say in his evidence on oath before the Commission. Question—The Commission believe that up to a very late period the authorities in this country and in England, have been led to form a very favourable opinion of the character and conduct of His Highness the Raja, can you account for the change which appears to have unhappily taken place? Answer—"I attribute it to his having attached himself to two persons in particular, Bulwunt Rao Chitnavees and Aba Parasnees, who are generally reported to be corrupt. They are in his full confidence and they abuse it, and it has long been the general opinion at Sattara, that they would be the cause of his ruin".

That I advised the Ex Raja to be suspended from his authority is perfectly true, not however to convict him, for he had been convicted, but to save him, if this step had been taken, I firmly believe, that it would have had the desired effect.

General Lodwick in his letter also eulogized the Ex Raja's "excellent management" of the jageers. Why then, did General Lodwick advise Sir Robert Grant, to deprive him of his sovereignty over two of these Chiefs? I answer in his own words, because he had "oppressed" those Chieftains, and because by this means, the Raja's disposition to oppress would be effectually curbed.

General Lodwick insists very strongly on the necessity there was for upholding the Ex Raja's dignity. But is not the character of the British Government also worthy of attention. This, however, was completely lost sight of, or how could such an exhibition

have been made as is described at page 33 of General Lodwick's letter to the Court of Directors dated 9th October 1840, viz., that the Ex Raja repeated "*from the window of his Place*, as I bade him farewell, that he would surrender his territory rather than concede the smallest point till his grievances had been heard and redressed". I ask, if this was fit language for a British Resident to hear or endure, and that to, from a Prince who was bound by treaty to abide in all things by the advice of the very Government, he was then setting at defiance.

As to the other points, discussed by General Lodwick in his letter of the 13th June last, viz., that his speech at the India House was "incorrectly given", that he was not President of that Commission, that he was ordered to yield to the majority, that he never regretted signing the Commission's proceedings, that the Raja never visited the Residency but of his own accord and that the Ex Raja and his brother and the Senaputty with him when he came, but not as advisers. All these points might, I think, safely be left to the General's own shewing. Still, I may, perhaps, be permitted, for the last time, to point out of the fallacies brought forward by General Lodwick.

General Lodwick says his speech at the India House was incorrectly given. If so, — why not manfully come forward and point out where it is wrong, and then there would be an end of the question. General Lodwick says he was not President of that Commission. But, whether President or not, did he not sign that report under a conviction of the Ex Raja's guilt, for that is the real question at issue. If, he then thought him guilty, why does he now retract? If he did not, why did he in April 1837, recommend to Sir Robert Grant to punish him, as he himself states in his letter of the 9th October 1840 to the Court of Directors.

As regards the Ex Raja's visit to the Commission being derogatory, this is proved to be a delusion of General Lodwick's by the fact that the Ex Raja never himself complained of it. That the Ex Raja came here on business afterwards, I can positively state, that he came to Sir James Carnac, also, we all know, that he came to General Lodwick and his predecessors, I am assured also by every person here. But even, as to the form of sending or asking, that also is against General Lodwick. For is it not the custom on every grand occasion (a Durbar of the Governor's for

instance) for the Resident to go and invite the Raja to come, did not General Lodwick go to invite the Ex Raja on Lord Clare's visit to his place ?

General Lodwick himself states, that the Ex Raja brought with him his brother and the Senaputty on his visit to the Commission, but denies their being " Advisers. " But was he not told to bring any adviser he wished, and did he not bring these persons, as to their being true or false, competent or incompetent, of that the Ex Raja was the best judge. But that " Colonel Ovans should have shown his love of justice by putting him (the Ex Raja) on his guard " that is, that I who had only come a few days before to Sattara, who had never seen the Raja or his brother, should divulge the evidence given before that secret Commission, and warn the Ex Raja against his brother that is certainly to use General Lodwick's own words " more than ridiculous."

But I must now pass to the wanton aspersions so gratuitously cast on my colleagues in this letter. These are that Mr. Willoughby called the Ex Raja a scoundrel and that behaved with violence during the sitting of that Commission. It is, as I before said very difficult to recollect conversation that have taken place six years ago. But this, I should certainly have recollected, and I can safely assert that Mr. Willoughby never used such unwarrantable expressions, either before that Commission or out of it, that I know of.

Mr. Willoughby, did certainly, on one occasion ask General Lodwick to write the proceedings himself. This was, I think, on some observation of the General but it only alluded, as far as I can recollect, to the matter in hand. But I saw no violence either at that, or at any other time on the part of Mr. Willoughby. And my recollection is clear as to the vote of thanks, being for the able manner in which Mr. Willoughby conducted those proceedings, meaning thereby, the proceedings generally, and not for acting as a clerk for eight hours daily at General Lodwick's request.

It has been painful to me to make the above remarks, but I think it will be granted, that I could not remain silent under the accusations of General Lodwick, noticed in the 1st and 2nd paragraphs of this letter, and if I allowed General Lodwick's other

assertions to remain unnoticed, this might be construed into a tacit admission of these ungrounded assertions. I have, therefore most unwillingly obtruded these remarks on Government. But as they are of vital importance to me both as a public officer of Government and as a private individual, I trust, I may respectfully solicit their transmission to the Honorable Court of Directors, with my humble but most earnest prayer, that they may be taken into their early consideration and made as public as the accusation against me.

No. 35. Statement of the Estimated Receipts and Expenses of the State of Satara for the year 1841-1842.

Statement of the Estimated Receipts and Expenses
of the Sattara Government for Sun 1251
Fuslee (A. D. 1841/42)

Receipts

13,14,598	Land Revenue	
	Customs	14,68,098
	Deduct from the above	
	Remissions	<u>1,53,500</u>
	Balance	<u>13,14,598</u>
72,202	Grazing tax, stamps, kooruns, & other petty Babs	
<u>13,86,800</u>	Total Receipts	

Charges

Rupees

5,01,745-0-0	Khasgee or personal expenses including the pension to the Ex Raja
5,44,288-0-0	Sowars and seebundees also the Local Crops and artillery
1,10,488-0-0	Hoozoor Cutcherry & Dawk

16,000	Repairing Roads
5,000	Schools
10,000	Prisoners
11 87,521	District charges of the Mamlatdars
11,000	Hospital Establishment
72,440	Pensions, Wurshasuns and Surinjamees
6,500	Tuggae or advance
24,339	Sadilwar and other contingent charges
<u>13,98,800</u>	Total charges
<u>13,86,800</u>	Deduct

12,000 Excess of charges over Receipts

The amount of excess will be made good from the amount realized on account of Absentees, as well as from the Balance due to the Surkar for the last year—in this manner the amount of the excess will be liquidated and no debt will be incurred.

Statement of the Estimated Receipts and Expenses of the
Akulcot Jageer for 1251 Fuslee (A. D. 1841/42)

Receipts

Rupees		Rupees
1,08,995	Revenue Settlement	1,18,995
	Deduct Remissions	<u>10,000</u>
	Balance	<u>1,08,995</u>
<u>23,974</u>	Taxes and other petty Babs	
<u>1,32,969</u>	Total Receipts	

Charges

25,587	The contingent of Horse at Sattara
7,678	Pensions, Wurshasuns and Nemnooks
58,291	Kasgee or personal charges
31,014	District charges including pay of the seebundeas and soowars in the District
<u>2,885</u>	Extra charges incurred for the Dussara
<u>1,25,455</u>	Total charges
	Estimated surplus 7,514

Statement of the Estimated Receipts and Expenses of the
Jageer of the Punt Sucheo for Sun 1251 Fuslee
(A. D. 1841/42)

Receipts

Rupees		Rupees
76,194	Revenue Settlement after deducting District charges	97,134
	Deduct from the above Remissions	20,490
		<u>76,194</u>
8,000	Collection from the lands of the six hill forts	
<u>84,194</u>	Total Receipts	

Charges

5,500	Annual payments to H. H. the Raja of Sattara
17,000	Nemnook of Radha Bye Sucheo
8,000	Nemnook of Bhowanee Bye Sucheo
10,000	Expenses of sowars and seebundees
7,500	Part of the annual instalement of 27,000 rupees settled to be paid in liquidation of the jageer – the balance remaining to be paid from the above account of the failure of rains is Rs. 19,500
32,194	Khasgee or personal expenses
4,000	Expenses incurred on account of proceedings to Kolapoor
<u>84,194</u>	Total Charges

Statement of the Estimate of Receipts and Expenses
of the jageer of the Pritty Niddy for Sun 1251 Fuslee
(A. D. 1841/42)

Receipts

Rupees		Rupees
65,906	Revenue settlement	72,256
	Deduct Remissions	6,350
		<u>65,906</u>
	Balance	

Charges

20,314	Soowars, Seebundees & District charges
12,000	Neemnook of Luxumee Bye Pritty Niddy
2,400	Neemnook of Radhabye Pritty Niddy
30,213	Khasgee or personal charges
65,906	

Statement of the Estimate of Receipts and Expenses
of the jageer of Juth for Sun 1251 Fuslee
(A. D. 1841/42)

Receipts

Rupees		Rupees
44,872	Revenue Settlement	58,872
	Deduct Remission	14,000
	Balance	44,872
4,278	Receipts from the Khuwas Kanee	
1,536	Received from Ramchunder Rao Dufflay on account of the nuzzurs to be paid to the Maharaj Surkar	
495	Received from Narain Rao Oomranec	
51,181	Total Receipts	

Charges

13,570	Contingent of Horse at Sattara
1,000	Babtee to the Punt Pritty Niddee
5,500	Sur Deshmookee of the Maharaj Surkar
8,500	Paid to the Maharaj Surkar in part of the amount of 25,000 rupees settled in account of the nuzzur for the adoption of a son
156	Revenue of the villages assigned to the creditors in liquidation of certain debts

2,961	Khu was kanee charges
9,064	District Charges
600	Paid to the members of the Panchayat appointed for the inquiry of Ramchunder Rao
8,887	Applied to the expenses incurred in consequence of the adoption of a son
600	Khasgee or personal charges
56,238	Total charges

Over charges Rs. 5,057

Statement of the Estimated Receipts and Expenses
of the Phultun Jageer for Sun 1251 Fuslee
(A. D. 1841/42)

<i>Receipts</i>	
Rupees	Rupees
67,586	Revenue Settlement
	On account of jageer
	On account of Deshmukkee
	85,9111
	Deduct Remissions
	18,352
	Balance
	67,586

<i>Charges</i>	
Rupees	
13,001	Contingent of Horse at Sattara
9,115	District charges
2,041	Pensions & Nemnooks
24,939	Khasgee or personal expences
21,660	Revenue of the villages assigned to the creditors in liquidation of the debts of the jageer after deducting the remissions Rupees
	6,146 granted on account of the failure of rain, the balance being
	Rupees 15,514. This sum has not been

paid to the Sowkars this present year because the same has been applied to the expenses incurred in consequence the adoption of a son. The villages, however, will be kept one year more viz., until 1257 Fuslee by the creditors (the year viz., 1256 Fuslee) being that formerly agreed and fixed upon

70,765 Total charges

Over Charges Rs. 3,170

In consequence of the nuzzurs etc., above alluded to the sum of rupees 3,000 fixed to be paid in cash every year to Kondo Bhicajee in liquidation of his debts has not been paid in the present year.

In liquidation of the debts of the Mahraj Sukar village yielding 7,198 rupees have been assigned till the expiration of 1256 Fuslee. Afterwards from 1256 Fuslee the same villages will be kept with the Maharaj Surkar for three years more in liquidation of the sum of 30,000 rupees of the nuzzur on account of the adoption.

No. 36. The Raja acknowledges the receipt of a letter from the Government of India informing the Native Princes of India of the success of the British arms in Afghanistan bringing back the Sandalwood Gates of the Temple of Somnath. The Raja was delighted with this information of British success and expressed a wish for the continuation of their friendship.

9th January 1843

Translation of a Yad No. 254 from His Highness the Raja of Sattara to the Resident under date the 9th January 1843 A. C.

A Yad under date the 26th December 1842 No. 476 has been received from the British Government stating, " that the sandalwood Gates belonging to the Temple of Somnath have been recovered from the tomb of Sooltan Mahomed at Guznee, and restored to that Temple, regarding which a Khuleeta has been sent

by the Honorable the Governor Saheb Bahadoor to be delivered to the Maharaj Surkar". The same is founded accordingly. So it is stated (in the Resident's Yads). As to this, the above mentioned Thylee, has been duly received and a reply to this letter is written and enclosed in a Thylee forwarded with this yad together with a copy. After pursuing this copy thylee (letter) may be transmitted to the Honorable the Governor Saheb Bahadoor.

No. 2. Translation of a copy of a letter from His Highness the Raja of Sattara to the Honorable Sir Arthur Baronet, Governor Saheb Bahadoor under the date the 9th January 1844.

A. C.

Further, a letter enclosed in a Thylee, and sent by Your Honor, has been duly forwarded here by Meherban Colonel Ovans Saheb Resident Bhadoor. Stating " that by order of the Right Honorable the Governor General of India, an address from his Lordship to the Native Princes and Chieftains, regarding the recovery of the Sandalwood Gates of the Temple of Somnath from the tomb of Sooltan Mahamed of Guznee, and their restoration to that Temple, is herewith forwarded to your Highness ". So it is stated. In the above address, the Right Honorable the Governor General has stated, " that our victorious army is bringing from Afghanistan the Sandalwood Gates of the Temple of Somnath; recovered from the tomb of Sooltan Mohamed of Ghuznee, and thus the misfortune which took place eight hundred years ago is now avenged by the British Government, being a support to you, takes interest in accomplishing your wishes. The whole of the above army has hoisted our victorious standards on desolate Ghuznee, Kabool and other strong forts and the supreme authority vested in me will be applied so as to promote your prosperity." This is the purport of the above address, which has afforded us the highest satisfaction. The British Government is the principle of justice, and it assists friends and defeats its enemies. Consequently, by these just acts on their part, their dominion is decreasing (increasing ?)—as their exists friendship between this State and the British Government, it is our sincere wish always, to hear such delighting intelligence in the way of correspondence. The Right Honorable the Governor General of India has revenged us upon our enemies, for the misfortune which took place eight hundred years ago, and

has triumphed and hoisted the victorious standards, and recovered the Sandalwood Gates belonging to the Temple of Somnath from the tomb of Sooltan Mohamed, and the same has been formally restored to that Temple. As to this it rejoices us to hear of such distinguished actions and it is confidently hoped that His Lordship and Your Excellency will continue to uphold the Native States, on the same footing as they have hitherto been maintained. For it is apparent every where, as well as here, that the British Government is desirous to show every attention towards those who keep true to their friendship with it.

Meherban Colonel Ovans Saheb Bahadoor Resident is intelligent and his advice is just and reasonable and also very satisfactory to us, and thus the friendship with the British Government will always be duly be promoted. It is our anxious desire to hear always such prosperous news of the British Government.

Gratify us always with Your Excellency's agreeable correspondence. What can be written.

For the rest etc. etc. etc.

No. 37. Death of the Native Agent, Ballaji Kasi Kebey. The appointment of another Native Agent necessary. Description of the nature of his duties and importance of such an appointment for administrative efficiency. (From C. Ovans to Secretary, Government of Bombay.)

6th March, 1843

Sir,

With reference to my letter No. 10 under date the 23rd instant, reporting the death of Ballajee Kasseebey, the Native Agent, of the Residency. I have the honor to request that you will have the goodness, to lay before the Honorable the Governor in Council, the annexed copy of a letter No. 1629 under date the 9th November 1837, addressed to Lieut. Colonel Lodwick appointing that officer to the situation of Resident at Sattara and to the command of troops within His Highness's territories.

By the 3rd paragraph of this letter, it appears that, "on the retirement of the Native Agent, or on his being otherwise provided for, the amount of his allowances will constitute a saving to the

State". But what other arrangement was to be made, for the performance of the duties of the Native Agent, I cannot discover in any of the letters in this office, either of a previous or subsequent date.

It is quite clear to me that, although the business of this office was light then to what it is now, yet even in that time, it could not have been satisfactorily or properly conducted without a Native Agent—and, I beg most respectfully but earnestly, to press on the attention of Government the necessity that exists for appointing a successor to the late Agent.

In order to shew the onerous duty that now presses upon me, I trust, I may be permitted to lay before Government, the accompaniments marked 2 and 3 of this letter, the first shewing the number of outwards and inward letters English and Mahratta for 1842.

By these documents, it will be seen, that the business in the English Department has increased from about 200 outward letters annually to 590, and in the Mahratta Department from about 195 outward letters annually to 862, besides 240 petitions and various other miscellaneous business.

It may be right for me to state, also, that although most of this correspondence is of an important nature, still the business transacted by personal conference with His Highness the Raja and with the Wukeels of the different Chiefs and others, as also the hearing of petitions is no less important, and occupies much time and attention.

The military duty likewise of the Resident as commanding the troops in the Sattara Districts, although not heavy, is still such as to require daily supervision, and at times, considerable personal superintendence, and it necessarily adds very much to the responsibility of his situation.

Under these circumstances, I might reasonably, perhaps, have been permitted to solicit the aid of a European assistant, from the date of the last treaty with this Government, which has thrown so much additional duty upon the Resident here. But I have been unwilling to subject Government to any additional expense, as long as my health and strength would permit me to fulfil these duties to the satisfaction of Government.

But although, I have been able to get through the business without a European assistant, I am constraint to submit, most respectfully to Government, that I do not see how these duties can be managed without the assistance of Native Agent.

It may, perhaps, be unnecessary for me to state that the Agents's duty is to read all the Mahratta letters to the Resident, to receive his orders thereon, and write the replies, and to conduct all conferences, and read the answer to all petitions in the presence of the Resident. Since the abolition of the treasury here, the Native Agent performs the duty of the treasurer also, in short, he has charge of every thing connected with the Native Department of the office.

For these duties, it will be evident, that a man of talent and probity is required, not only to maintain the character of the British Government but also for the sake of His Highness the Raja and the Jageerdards, whose interest and feelings are so deeply concerned in having a person of integrity and good temper, placed so immediatly in contact with them.

For the above reasons, I earnestly solicit, that the Honorable the Governor in Council, will be pleased to sanction an appointment of a Native Agent in this Residency in the room of and on the same salary (viz., Company's rupees 262 per month) as the late Native Agent Ballajee Kassee Kibby, deceased.

No. 38. Public works in execution at Sattara by the Raja. Their importance to the Town and neighbourhood of the Sattara State. (From C. Ovens to Secretary to Government of Bombay)

8th May 1843

Sir,

As the great public works now carrying on by His Highness the Raja of Sattara, which are alluded to in the 9th paragraph of my Annual Report No, 211 under date the 31st December last, are approaching to completion, I trust, I may be permitted respectfully to lay before the Honorable the Governor in Council, the accompanying plans of these works,

These plans are as follows :

1st. A plan of the bridge over the Yena river, which is about three miles from the town of Sattara, on the highroad from Sattara to Poona.

2nd. A plan of a bridge over the Kistna river at Wurroot, a village about six miles from Sattara on the highroad from Sattara to Poona.

3rd. A plan of an aqueduct to bring water to the town of Sattara from Eteshwar, a moutain, immediately above the town.

4th. A plan of the bund or embankment at Mahableshwar.

It is unnecessary for me to make any observations on the utility of these great works. The plans now forwarded, I trust, speak for themselves. But, I feel confident, that the Honorable the Governor in Council, will be happy to take advantage of this opportunity of expressing to His Highness the Raja of Sattara, the high sense entertained of the utility and benefit of such works, which confer not only honor on His Highness's Government but also on our own.

Besides, the above, there are also other public works of lesser magnitude, which have been completed or are still in course of completion by His Highness. These have, from time to time, been duly brought to the notice of Government. But, perhaps, I may be pardoned for briefly adverting to them, in order that Government may judge how much this country has been benefitted by His Highness's public spirit and liberality in this way.

The works adverted to in the last paragraph are briefly these :

1. A large Cutcherry (Town Hall) in the town of Sattara.
2. A new hospital in the town of Sattara.
3. New Lines of the Local Crops near the town of Sattara.
4. A new road up the ghat from Sattara to Mahableshwar.
5. A new road from the embankment from Mahableshwar to Malcolm Peith.
6. The completion of the highroad from Sattara to Poona.
7. Three travellers bungalows on the highroad from Poona to Belgaum.

These are the principal works of public utility, lately finished

or now in actual progress by the Raja of Sattara. But it would be unjust to the Raja not to add, that his subjects are also indebted to His Highness for various other smaller works as resevoirs, wells, etc., which His Highness has caused to be made, both in the town of Sattara itself, and in other parts of the country.

No. 39. Annual Report on the progress of the Sattara State and in the territories of the Jagirdars. (From C. Ovens to Secretary to the Government of Bombay)

1st January 1844

Sir,

I have the honor to request that you will have the goodness, to lay before the Honorable the Governor in Council, the following Annual Report, on the general condition of the country, under my superintendence, agreeably to orders contained in your letter No. 778 under date the 28th April 1838.

In exemplification of the present state of the country, it will save time at once to solicit the attention of Government, to a list of accompaniments* annexed to this Report, and to the following observations thereupon.

The first of these No. 1 is a statement of the Receipts and Expenses of the Sattara Government for 1252 Fuslee (A. D. 142/43) by which it will be seen, that the revenue of this country for 1842/43 has exceeded that of 1841/42 by a sum of rupees 66, 617.3.9 and that, although, the expenses have been greater, this last season also, still a balance of receipts over expenditure is shown of Rs. 7,854.3.64½ and, as this Government is not in debt we may safely conclude, that notwithstanding the great public works carrying on here, the finances of the Sattara State are on a sound footing.

The statement No. 2 is a memorandum of the Civil and Criminal business of the Sattara Government for 1842/43. By comparing this statement with that of last year, it will be seen, that the arrears of public business have much decreased. For instance the Urzees to be disposed of last year, were stated to be 4,808. This year they appear to be only 3,439. The appeals

* No accompanying statements were with the report.

undecided last year were stated to be 532. This year they are stated to be only 291. The number of prisoners to be tried last year was stated to be 148. Those remaining to be tried this year appear to be only 89. This, I think, affords satisfactory proof that His Highness the Raja continues to conduct the affairs of his Government with zeal, judgment discretion, and I feel happy to add, that in all other respects, also, the country is evidently improving under His Highness's able and judicious management.

The statement No. 3 is a present state of the Local Corps of His Highness the Raja of Sattara made up to 20th ultimo. This Corp, I am happy to say, still maintain its high character, and as a proof of this, I beg respectfully to observe, that when inspected by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in June last, by the desire of His Highness the Raja, His Excellency was pleased to express his high opinion of its efficiency and discipline.

The statement No. 4 attached to this Report will speak for itself. It is the report of the sick admitted into the hospital, of His Highness the Raja of Sattara, from the 20th December 1842 to the 20th December 1843 inclusive. It may be right to mention that the statement furnished to Government with my last Annual Report was for seventeen months, and that this is only for twelve months. So that, with this explanation, it will be seen, that there is a considerable increase both in the indoor and outdoor patients, and also in the children vaccinated, and I need only add, that the blessings conferred by the beneficent institution on the people at large are incalculable and are, I believe, very generally and justly appreciated by all classes.

The Report of the English and Mahratta schools is not so satisfactory as could be wished, in as much as, it shows a trifle falling off in the number of boys since the last Report. The real fact is, that the people here, show little or no inclination to have their children taught English, and as regards Mahratta, the great majority also appear to prefer the old established schools in the town to the new institutions. I do not well know to account for this, except that the discipline in the town schools is not so strict as in the College, (?) and that it is more convenient for the poorer classes to go to a school at their own door, than to go to a distance. But these schools seem to work well, as there is

scarcely a person amongst the better classes here, who cannot read and write readily, and by sending their children at a very early age to write in the public offices here, they speedily acquire an insight into public business which fits them admirably for their future duties as karkoons, in the various departments of Government.

The statement No. 6 of the receipts and expenses of the Akulcote Jageer shows that the resources of this petty State are in good condition, in as much as, the revenue for 1842/43 exceeded that of the last year about 8,000 rupees, and the surplus, after paying all expenses, is stated to be 11,829 rupees.

In addition to this favorable state of the income for the young Raja of Akulcote, I am happy to report, that since the full management of his affairs was finally made over to him, he has conducted the public business so as to give general satisfaction—and that, he evidently takes interest in his public duties—he has introduced all the forms adopted by His Highness the Raja of Sattara for the better transaction of Civil and Criminal business, and he shews every inclination to benefit his principality to the utmost of his means.

Since my last Annual Report, this Chief has entertained a young vaccinator to vaccinate in his country—he has also completed Dhurmsalas in the villages on the principal thoroughfare, for native travellers, and he has made a contract for six miles of a substantial road between Akulcote and Sholapoor, which is all satisfactory as affording practical proof of his gratitude to the British Government, in the mode, which he knows, will be most acceptable.

The statement No. 7 shows the annual receipts and expenses of the Punt Suchoo for 1842/43. This statement is more satisfactory than last year, as it shews an increase of 8,000 rupees in the revenue settlement for the season, and as it also shews a sum of 22,000 rupees paid to the public creditors, instead of 7,500 rupees the sum paid in 1841/42. This account, however, shews an increase of 5,000 rupees in what is called the personal expenses of the Punt. But, it is proper to state, that only a small part of this sum is expended on the Punt's own expenses, the rest being the pay of (karkoons and other public servants) at Bhor, as well as,

the expenses of the annual festival of rain at the same place, and various other charges of a public nature. However, I have directed the karbharies to observe in future the strictest economy, as regards these charges, and to reduce them as low as possible.

I beg also to observe, that an arrangement has been made this year by the karbharis of this young Chief, for reducing the interest of the debts of this Jageer and the expenses of managing certain districts, by which an annual saving has been effected of 4,500 rupees, and it is now calculated, that in about eight years, the whole of the Punt Sucheo's debts will be discharged. It may be right to also mention, that I have persuaded the karbarees to entertain a regular pundit, for the purpose of giving a substantial education to the young Punt in his mother tongue, and that he is reported to be now making considerable progress, both in reading and writing—he is a very active, intelligent youth—rides well—and is fond of all manly exercises. He attends regularly in his cutcherry to see how the public business is carried on, and if wisely guided, will, I trust, turn out well.

The statement No. 8 shews the estimated receipts and expenses of the Jageer of the Punt Pritty Niddy for 1842/43. This statement is so far satisfactory, as it gives an increase of the revenue over that of the last year of rupees 2,296, and I have the pleasure in adding to this, that the management of this State was somewhat improved during the last season. But no thorough reform can, I fear, be anticipated during the life of the present Punt, who is old and infirm, and quite incapable of conducting the public business of his principality.

But although the Punt takes no interest in public affairs himself, he throws no obstacles in the way of reforms. So that by the means of his agents, I have succeeded in introducing a better mode of conducting public business which, I hope, will do good, as all who are aggrieved are at liberty to represent their grievances to me, I trust, that this serves as a check to any great abuse of authority.

The statement No. 9 contains the estimated receipts and expenses of the Jageer of Juth and Kuruzghee for 1842/43. This looks better than the statement of last year, in as much as, it shews a trifling surplus of receipts over expenditure. I am happy

to add also, that Bhageerthee Dafflay now shows every inclination to make such reforms as necessary in her principality. But she is surrounded by intriguing, dishonest men and until she finds an able honest man, to act under her, I fear, there is little chance of the public business being conducted as we wish.

The principal event as regard Juth this year is the settlement of the long pending claim of Purshram Jugtab on the village of Seedeal, which is now ordered to be commuted into a money payment for life—and this seems, at last, to have put a stop to all further agitation of this vexatious question.

The accompaniment No. 10 contains the estimated receipts and expenses of the Phultun Jageer for 1842/43. This account is likewise satisfactory, as shewing an increase in receipts over those of the last year of rupees 6,420. It also shews that out of these, rupees 26,948 have been appropriated to the payment of the debt of this Jageer during last year—and under the judicious management of Saibjee Bye Nimbalkur, I confidently look forward to this debt being discharged in due course of time, and to the improvement of this principality in every respect.

In all my reports, I have had occasion to speak highly of the management of this lady, and I would venture to add on fact which, I think, exemplifies the efficiency of her police—a sowkar going from Poona to Kuladghee on the 28th November 1842, was robbed at Phultun while putting up for the night there of property estimated at 5,733-4-9, the alarm was given, and the gang was followed up so closely, that although from superiority of numbers and after wounding several, one of the police, they effected their escape—rupees 5,136-12-9 of the stolen property was recovered and restored to the owner.

This, I think, speaks well for the Saibjee Bye's police arrangement, and as she has introduced all reforms made at Sattara by His Highness into her own principality, I feel gratified at bringing this lady to the favourable notice of Government.

As regards the affairs of Sheik Khan Mahomed of Waee, the last and the least of the guaranteed Jageerdars of the Sattara State. I beg respectfully to refer Government to my report No. 30 of the 3rd October last, and its accompaniments, from His Highness the Raja of Sattara, describing in detail the settlement now made

of the affairs of this chief. This settlement is exceedingly equitable, and also indulgent, both as regards Khan Mohamad himself – and his creditors – and if Government be pleased to approve of it and to uphold it, and to give strict orders for its due fulfilment, the perplexing question will also have been finally and satisfactorily adjusted.

On the whole, I think, I may safely report to Government, that the revenues of these Jageerdars are in an improving state. The small number of petitions, too received this year against the Jageerdars (only about ninety) seem to argue, that on the whole, their affairs are justly and mercifully administered, and although no great public improvements are going on, still, that their subjects generally are in good condition.

As regards the works of public utility that might be carried on by these Chiefs, their poverty, at the present, forbids this, but whenever they can afford it, they should certainly be advised to put aside a certain sum annually for roads, wells, dhurmasalas and other public purposes, and as a beginning, I would respectfully beg to suggest, that each of these Jageerdars be required to keep a vaccinator on an adequate salary to vaccinate, within their own limits so as to check the small pox there, and to prevent its introduction from their districts to those of their neighbours.

I trust I may now be permitted, before closing this Report, to submit to Government, a few remarks on the following points as connected with the Sattara country viz.

1. Public works; 2. Transit Duties; 3. Currency; 4. Boundary Disputes; 5. Slavery; 6. Suttee. It appears to me, to be very expedient, for Government to be duly informed, from time to time, of the progress made by His Highness for placing those important matters on a proper footing.

The first then as regards public works, I beg to report, that the bridges over the Kistna and Yenna rivers are now practicable for carts, and only require the parapets to complete them. These are splendid works and will be of the greatest utility to the country at large. The great aqueduct from Uteshwur is also progressing, but it will require about two years yet to complete it, and a cistern which is to be completed to receive its water for the benefit of the town. The embankment at Mahableshtar is also finished

and the great cutcherry (or the Town Hall) in the town of Sattara is also going, it is a magnificent work and besides, being a good specimen of Hindoo architecture of the present day, it is very advantageous to Sattara as affording employment for hundreds of His Highness's subjects at their own doors.

As regards the transit duties Government is aware, that these were put on the same footing here, as in the British territory by a proclamation of His Highness the Raja.

This, together with the improved state of the roads and the construction of the bridges, has already had a good effect on the internal trade of this country. Formerly, scarcely a cart was to be seen here, and those of the rudest description. Now good carts are daily passing over the bridges and roads between Sattara—Poona—Punderpoor etc., and doubtless this trade will increase.

It is known to Government that a proclamation, as to the introduction of the Company's rupee was issued in 1839 by the Raja, and that in the year 1840, ten lakhs of Company's rupees were brought here, from the general treasury in Bombay, in exchange for Chandor rupees sent from Sattara to the Presidency. From June 1840, up to the present time, Company's rupees for the payment of the troops have also been sent from Poona here, and by this means about $2\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs of Company's rupees have been introduced into this country, and, I am happy to report, that the present market value of the Company's rupees is $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent above that of the Chandor rupees.

I beg, however, to add, that it has been reported to me by the officer in charge of the Treasure Chest here, that he has been informed by the acting Paymaster at Poonah, of his intention to remit the pay of the troops and the military establishment not in specie, but in Hoondees for the future—and I beg respectfully to suggest, that the opinion of the Accountant General be taken, whether with reference to the more general introduction of the Company's rupees, it would be advisable to send the money in specie, or by Hoondees as is now about to be done.

I also respectfully beg to be informed, if it would be convenient for Government, to send up any more Company's rupees to His Highness the Raja in exchange for an equivalent in Chandor

rupees. As the Chandor rupees, still continued to be freely circulated here, it is of course an object to absorb, as much as possible of this coinage.

As to the new copper coinage of the British Government, I fear, there is little chance of its obtaining currency here, as long as the old copper coinage of the country is so cheap and plentiful, as at present. But, if Government by extensive purchases of the old pice, could bring it down to the same level as the Company's pice—than the latter, I conceive, would be introduced with safety but not before.

In the 13th paragraph of my last Annual Report No. 211 under date the 31st December 1842, I represented to Government the importance of completing the settlement of boundary disputes of the villages on the frontier of this Government, and I then suggested the expediency of employing an experienced officer of the Revenue Survey on this duty. I regret however, to find by Mr. Secretary Willoughby's letter No. 2595 under date the 21st October last, that no officer can be spared from the Department for this duty. Still, I trust, I may be permitted to observe that whenever the exigency of the public service will admit of it, I take hope, an officer may be detached for this purpose. It will not take long, and will prevent frequent outrages and even murder and, therefore, it is an object deserving of being kept in view.

As connected with Mr. Fawcett's employment for the settlement of these boundary dispute, I beg to draw attention of Government to the correspondence, by which it will be seen, that the expenses of this settlement were to be defrayed by the parties concerned, and I beg to suggest that the Accountant General be requested to transmit to me a memorandum, of the sum due on this account by the Sattara Government, in order that the same may be recovered and duly carried to the credit of the British Government.

With reference to the question of slavery here, it is known to Government that the buying and selling of slaves was abolished by the proclamation of His Highness the Raja of Sattara under date the 20th July 1841—as far as I can discover, this species of traffic was never carried on to a great extent in these Districts—and the slavery that does exist, is what might, with more propriety be called a

mild species of domestic bondage. Slaves were here being worked in the fields as in our colonies. To satisfy myself, however, on this point, I have obtained from His Highness the Raja, a statement from every village in His Highness own country, of the slaves bought and sold for the last twenty years. By this it appears that the total number sold was 262, of whom only 39 were boys and the rest girls—that the sum given for these slaves was 8,365—the price vary from 10 to 50 rupees for each slave—and that the age of the children, so bought and sold, was from 3 to 20 years. It also appears that of these children, seven were bought from the British territory—six from other parts and the remainder belonged the Sattara territory itself.

But as the above statement does not include the Jageer States under the Government, and as it is probable that many cases in the Sattara country may have been forgotten or omitted, particularly in large towns, there is evidently reason [for congratulation that this specie of traffic, though it appears to have been, is now completely put a stop to.

As to the last subject enumerated in paragraph 23rd, to which I have to draw the attention of Government, viz., suttee it was my painful duty, in the time of the Ex Raja of Sattara, to report the British Government in my letters.....no less than three of these barbarous sacrifices, following close on each other, at Mahoolee near Sattara—these suttees having taken place under circumstances, which render them peculiarly obnoxious, and having been countenanced and encouraged by the Ex Raja, it is impossible also to say how many other suttees had previously occurred here. But I fear, the number must have been considerable. Particularly, if we include those at Wae and Punderpoor,—places held equally sacred by Hindoo superstition for such rites.

Fortunately, these heart rending scenes, were not of long continuance. For immediately on the accession of the present Raja, suttee was abolished by public proclamation all throughout his own country, as well as, that of all the independent Jageerdars of this Government—and I have not since heard of a single case—nor does this appear, as far as I can learn, to have created the least dissatisfaction amongst any class of people of these Districts.

The importance of the above points to the general well-being of this country will, I trust, excuse the length of these details.

But, I hope, the facts herein given will be satisfactory to Government, and that they will show that these districts are in an improving state. There are no doubts drawbacks here as elsewhere as regards public affairs, but these drawbacks are not such as to give us, I think, any serious uneasiness or to interfere much with the well being of the people at large.

The drawbacks alluded to appear to be—First, as regards Sattara—the passion of the reigning Prince for building and constructing works, both of ornament and public utility, of which the Cutcherry in town is an example but which may be, hereafter, involve him in pecuniary difficulties—And secondly, His Highness's unwillingness to employ any persons immediately under him to hear appeals and dispose of other arrears of business which may, hereafter, involve great delay in disposing of these arrears. But, as both these feelings are praiseworthy, if not carried too far—I doubt, whether it would be either just or judicious, to take any direct steps to counteract them at present.

On the part of the Jageedars the drawbacks are—First—the capicity of the Punt Pritty Niddy for public business and next, that the present Chiefs of the other three jageers are minors and women, which necessarily involves the employment of much subordinate and irresponsible agency.

Still, notwithstanding these drawbacks, it appears to me, that the present system of Government in this country with all its defects is well suited to the habits and feelings of the people—and that it is working as well, at present, as we could possible expect.

No. 40. On the news of the departure of Dr. Erskine, the Raja informs the Bombay Government of how well he had managed the Raja's hospital at Sattara. A list of the gifts given by the Raja to Dr. Erskine.

Translation of a Yad No. 312 from His Highness the Raja of Sattara to the Resident under date the 21st February 1844.
A. C.

A yad No. 55 has been received from the British Government under date the 20th instant, stating that Dr. Erskine intends to go to England.

1st. His Highness the Raja of Sattara regrets very deeply the departure of Dr. Erskine, who is a very noble Gentleman, from England.

2nd. Since the appointment of Dr. Erskine our hospital has been in an improving state and many patients have been cured and restored to sound health under his care.

3rd. Dr. Erskine took great pains in administering medicines etc., when His Highness was himself twice sick, and under his care His Highness has been restored to good health.

4th. To procure a person to supply the place of this wise and judicious Gentleman rests with the Resident Saheb.

5th. As Dr. Erskine managed our hospital very excellently, and as his services have given the highest satisfaction to His Highness, when His Highness was attacked by sickness, and as this Gentleman is now going to England, with no intention of returning again, His Highness has been pleased to present to this Gentleman some articles as a memorial, the yad of which is herewith enclosed.

The above five paragraphs have been written for information,

A yad of articles presented to Dr. Erskine on his departure for England viz.,

Rs.	As.	P.		
283	4½	0	Clothes	
			30 - 10 - 0	One Teewut Pytunee
			200 - 0 - 0	One pair of shawls
			45 - 0 - 0	One piece of Keenkhhab
				Bootadar
			7 - 10½ - 0	Two Agabanees
			283 - 4½ - 0	
825	0	0	Ornaments	
			725 - 0 - 0	Powchee (Bracelet) con-
				sisting of an emerald set
			100 - 0 - 0	with diamonds
				A ruby ring
			825 - 0 - 0	
1108	4½	0		

No. 41. Invitation to the marriage of His Highness the Raja of Sattara. A list of the gifts to be presented to His Highness.

Translation of an invitation to the address of the Honorable the Governor under the 7th April 1844.*

A. C.

It has been determined to celebrate the marriages of the Surkar (His Highness) one on Tuesday the 13th of Vyshach Soodh corresponding with the 30th April 1844, and the other on Saturday Vyshach Vud 2nd corresponding with the 4th of May 1844. The daughters of Luxomonrao Rajey Sheerkey and Keert-sing Rajey Sheerkey have been selected as brides to His Highness. As to this the attendance of Your Excellency is requested at the celebration of these marriages—For the rest etc., etc., etc.

Contingent Bill of Articles purchased at the Sattara Residency to present as a Poshak to the Raja of Sattara on the occasion of the nuptials of His Highness, in conformity to the instructions contained in the 2nd paragraph of Mr. Chief Secretary Willoughby's letter No. 1228, Political Department, dated 17th April 1844 to the Resident at Sattara.

April 29th 1844	1 Mundill	135	0	0
	1 Pair of shawls	300	0	0
	1 Kinkab Gutchee	125	0	0
	2 Jameewar	19	0	0
	1 Putka	23	0	0
	1 Pytunee Saree	75	0	0
	1 Pairs of shawls	200	0	0
	2 Khuns	9	0	0
	1 Mundill	99	0	0
	1 Pair of shawls	165	0	0
	1 Kinkab	85	0	0
	2 Jameewar	12	0	0
	1 Putka	23	0	0
	2 Pytunee Saree	167	0	0
	4 Khuns	17	0	0
	2 Pairs of shawls	260	0	0
		1714	0	0

Total one thousand seven hundred and fourteen rupees.

* Similar invitations were sent to the Commander-in-Chief and Mr. Willoughby, the Secretary, Government of Bombay.

Sattara Residency 8th May 1844

I do hereby certify that the above sum was duly disbursed as herein set forth.

Sd. C. Ovans
Resident at Sattara

Translation of a letter from His Highness the Raja of Sattara to the Honorable Sir George Arthur Baronet Saheb, Governor Bahadoor, under date 8th May 1844.

A. C.

A Thylee letter has been received from Your Excellency, stating that a Poshak, on the occasion of His Highness's nuptials, is forwarded and requesting our acceptance of the same. So it is mentioned—with regard to this, the aforesaid Thylee letter, and the Poshak, have been duly presented to this Surkar during the celebrations of the nuptials by Lieut. Colonel Ovans Resident Saheb Bahadoor—by which we are highly gratified. The Resident Saheb Bahadoor has attended the marriage procession, and acted so as to increase our dignity in general, in which he has given us inexpressible satisfaction. The Resident Saheb Bahadoor is an excellent experienced officer. And by his advice the friendship with the British Government is always on the increase. Our respectability and fame have been preserved, and regarded by Your Excellency, and we feel fully assured of its protection for the future. Your Excellency being our elder—we trust, we may always be favoured with letters regarding Your Excellency's welfare of which we are most anxious to hear. For the rest etc., etc.

No. 42. List of the principal officers in the service of the Raja of Sattara. Appointed on the 20th September 1840, and confirmed in their various offices.

8th May 1844

List of the principal officers of the Durbar of this government with their names as follows :

1. Eshwunt Trimbuck Foujdar has been appointed to the office of the Dewan and he now conducts the duty of the dewanship.

2. Khundey Rao Rajey Seerkey has been appointed to the office of the Senaputtee and he now conducts the military duties.

3. Joke Trimbuck has been appointed to the office of Neeadish and he now conducts the duty of Neeadish (Adawlut).

4. Ambajee Rajey Seerkey has been appointed to the office of the Sur Luskur—he now conducts the duty of the Sur Luskurship (troops).

5. Jan Rao Bhoetey has been appointed to the office of the Senakurtey—he now conducts the duty of Seebundee.

6. Kesso Eshwunt Foujdar has been appointed to the office of the Chitnees (secretaryship).

7. Sukharam Bapoojee has been appointed to the office of the Fadnees—and he now conducts the duty of the Furdnees (revenue and magisterial correspondence).

8. Moodhojee Rajey Maharick has been appointed to the office of Buxee and he now conducts the duty of the Horse.

9. Sukharam Bulleal Kaneerey has been appointed to the office of Seekanuvees (in charge of the seals).

10. Ramchundar Gungadhar has been appointed to the office of the Duftardar he now conducts the duty of the Duftur (records)

These are the principal officers under this Government—under date the 8th May 1844.

No. 43. Introduction of the Company's currency in the Satara territories by the Raja. The circulation was rather slow, especially the copper currency. (From C. Ovens to J. P. Willoughby)

6th August 1844

Sir,

With reference to Mr. Secretary Escombe's letter in the Territorial Department of Finance No. 709, under date the 6th ultimo, and its accompaniment...requesting me to report how far the Company's silver and copper currencies have entered into circulation in the Territories of His Highness the Raja of Sattara, I have the honor to request that you will have the goodness to lay before

the Honorable the Governor in Council, the annexed translation of a yad No. 73 under date the 25th ultimo, received from His Highness on this subject.

It is known to the Government that by a proclamation dated 23rd September 1839, issued by His Highness the Raja of Sattara, the Company's rupee was declared to be current here, in the same manner as it is current in the British Territory, and in furtherance of this object the following steps have been subsequently adopted.

First. The sum of Chandor rupees 14,12,059-4-50 $\frac{1}{4}$ have been sent in specie to the Bombay mint from Sattara, and the sum of Company's rupees 12,00,222-8-0 have been sent up from the Bombay mint in specie to Sattara, and put in circulation here.

Secondly. Orders have been transmitted by His Highness the Raja, as mentioned in this yad throughout this territory, that 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent are allowed on all payment of revenue made in the Company's rupees, and as exchange between the Company's Chandor rupee has generally been below, that this is evidently a great encouragement to the people to obtain the Company's rupees.

Thirdly. The sums required for the monthly payment of the troops and military establishments at Sattara are sent from Poona in specie, in order to assist in promoting the general circulation of the Company's rupee. The sum so sent, may be taken at about Company's rupees 8 or 9,000—monthly—the balance required from these military payments being received from the Sattara Government, on account of the pension of the Ex Raja of Sattara paid by the British Government at Bunarus.

Fourthly. Two thousand rupees worth of the new copper currency is expected from Poona when, as will be seen by this yad, it will be put in circulation by His Highness, and I propose to introduce the new copper currency simultaneously into the Military Bazaars here.

Notwithstanding, these above measures, it does not appear to me, that the Company's rupee has as yet entered freely into circulation in this country, and the new copper currency is scarcely even known here. As His Highness the Raja proposes, however, to continue to send the Chandor rupees when collected in sufficient quantities in the treasury here to Bombay mint, and to receive Company's rupees in lieu of these, it is to be hoped that the

Chandor rupee will gradually disappear, and that the Company's rupee will take its place. But I see little hope of forcing the new copper currency into circulation here as long as the old copper currency is so cheap and plentiful, as it is at present.

The only plan I can suggest for effecting this latter object is by extensive purchases of the old copper currency, so as to make it dearer than the Company's pice.

For instance $71\frac{1}{2}$ of the old pice are now given in the Sattara bazar for one Company's rupee. But one Company's rupee only brings 64 of the new pice (or $\frac{1}{4}$ anna pices) which in themselves, are also by less weight than the old copper pice of the country. So that, here, where both the silver and copper coins are looked upon as saleable commodities agreeably to their intrinsic value, as silver or copper, it is clear that this new copper currency can only be forced into circulation by diminishing the quantity of the old copper currency so as to bring it under 64 pice per Company's rupee, and though it may involve present expense, it would probably in the end, be the most advisable course to pursue.

No. 44. Desecration of Muslim buildings by travellers in Bijapur, and the need of proper water supply in the Jumma Musjid. Suggestions to keep in repair the magnificent buildings. His Highness the Raja of Satara had undertaken to preserve these noble relics. A native doctor was appointed to vaccinate the children and give medical aid in time of cholera endemic (From C. Ovans to J. P. Willoughby).

27th August 1844

Sir,

Having visited the city of Beejapoor in my tour through the Eastern Districts of the Sattara Territory in January and February last, the Mohamedan inhabitants in a body represented to me, in a very urgent manner, that steps should be taken to prevent the desecration of those magnificent buildings, the Jooma Musjid and Ibram Roza at that place, by travellers and their servants putting up in them, and also that for a small sum the water might be stored in the reservoir of the Juma Musjid, and some of the other

noble buildings there, kept from falling into decay by a very small present outlay.

When this ancient place, which now presents the finest specimens of Mahomedan architecture in the Deccan, and perhaps in India, was first made over to Sattara Government, Captain Grant caused some repairs to be made to Ibram Roza and to the Goole Goomuch, and these repairs, which could have only cost a small sum, have been the means of preserving them, until now, almost uninjured by time.

Considering that it must be the wish of the British Government to preserve such noble relics, the pride and wonder of this part of India, I ventured to call the attention of His Highness the Raja of Sattara to this subject, and Government will, I think, be happy to observe that His Highness has taken steps to repair the Goolee Goomuch, to restore the water of the Jooma Musjid and to prepare a another place for travellers to put up in. So that, there is now no necessity, for their resorting either to the Jooma Musjid or Ibram Roza for accommodation.

Adverting to the 3rd, 4th, and 5th paragraphs of His Highness's yad, stating that a native doctor on fifteen rupees per month has been appointed to this city of Beejapoor, I beg to remark that this has also been done at the earnest solicitation of the inhabitants of that city, who promised not only to bring all their children to be vicedinated, but to induce the Mahomedans of the surrounding country to bring theirs also.

The difficulty experienced at Akulcot, even when a European Medical officer was stationed there, in procuring children to vaccinate, will be proved to Government by the reports of my predecessors at Sattara, and I consider it fortunate that such an opening has occurred, by proving to the people of these Eastern Districts, the benefits of vaccination, as also of affording the necessary medical aid in cases of cholera or any other fatal endemic, which this medical practitioner is, I am informed, well able to do.

No. 45. Native States their administration and history under the superintendence of the Political Agent at Satara (From C. Ovans to J. P. Willoughby)

27th August 1844

Sir,

With reference to your Circular letter to my address in this Department No. 2458 under date the 13th October last, and its accompaniments. I beg that you will have the goodness to submit to the Honorable the Governor in Council, that after a careful search through all the records of this office, no copy of the Circular letter of the Government of India under date the 17th October 1833, nor the sketch drawn by Major Sutherland alluded to in the 1st paragraph of that letter, is to be found here.

In framing the following Report, therefore, I must necessarily be guided by the general instructions contained in the two Circular letters now transmitted to me, and any repetitions or omissions, as regards Major Sutherland's sketch will, I trust, under this explanation be forgiven.

The Native States under the Political superintendence of the Resident at Sattara are as follows :

First. The Territory of His Highness the Raja of Sattara.

Secondly. The Territory of the Jageerdars of the Sattara Government viz.,

1. The Raja of Akulcot
2. Punt Pritty Niddy
3. The Punt Sucheo
4. Saibjee Bye Nimbalkar of Phultun
5. Bhageerthee Bye Dufflay of Juth and Kurruzghee
6. Sheik Khan Mahomed of Wae

Although these Jageerdars have full jurisdiction within their own Jageers, still as they cannot be looked upon in the light of independent States but rather as forming an integral part of the Sattara Territory, it will, I think, be advisable for the sake of perspicuity to include them all in this Report.

The principal points on which information is required by the Government of India appear to be :

1st. An account of all existing Treaties and of all modifications of the same.

2nd. A history of the reigning families and of the order of succession.

3rd The boundaries and geographical features of each State.

4th. The Revenues, Disbursements and Tributes of each.

5th. The Local and contingent Corps.

6th. The Native Force not under British control.

7th. The system of Police.

As regards the first of these points viz., the existing Treaties and modifications of the same, I beg to refer to my despatch No. 38 under date the 20th July last, and its accompaniments, being an introductory notice to the Treaties between the British and the Sattara Government separately, according to the instructions conveyed in the 1st paragraph of Mr. Secretary Edwards' Circular letter, under date the 6th March last.

As regards the second of these points viz. a history of the reigning family and the order of succession. The history of Sevajee, the founder of the Mahratta Monarchy, is well known. This celebrated man was born in A. D. 1627 in the Fort of Sewneer 50 miles north of Poona. Both his father and grandfather distinguished themselves as soldiers in the service of the kings of Bijapoor. The life of Sevajee himself was a series of conflicts with the Mahomedan armies that then overran the Deccan. But before his death, which took place at Rajeehur in A. D. 1680 in the 53rd year of his age, he had established his authority over the greater part of Western India from Surat to Goa. His successors proved weak and worthless, and the whole power of their Government was subsequently assumed by the Peshwas or Chief Ministers, who, however, continued to the last to govern in the name of the Rajas of Sattara, their nominal masters being, nevertheless, kept close prisoners in the hill fort of Sattara.

On the conquest of this country in 1817/18, by the British Government, there were three brothers of this family then living viz., Purtab Sheo-Raja Ram and Shahjee who were all well born and bred prisoners in the hill fort of Sattara, and who, on the

breaking out of the war had been brought down from the fort by Bajee Rao Pashwa and taken with him, when he fled before General Sir Lionel Smith's force.

These Princes with their mother surrendered themselves prisoners to Sir Lionel Smith at the battle of Ashtey, and it was then proposed by Mr. Elphinstone, Commissioner of the Deccan, to confer on them a small but independent territory sufficient for their maintenance in comfort and dignity, and which might serve as a counterpoise to the Bramin dynasty and also afford employment for the civil, military and religious classes of this country, whom it would be difficult to dispose of under the British Government.

This suggestion being approved... a Treaty was entered into in September 1819 with Pratab Sheo, the eldest of these brothers, and country to the extent of about fifteen lakhs of rupees annual revenue, was ceded and finally made over to his own management in April 1822. *

This Prince, however, who, from our first connection with him, had entertained false and extravagant ideas of his own importance, soon became discontented with his real position and entered into schemes subversive of his engagements and inimical to the British Government.

These intrigues being inquired into and substantiated, the Treaty with him became null and void, under the 5th Article, and it was, accordingly declared to be so by proclamation on 5th September 1839. But by the same proclamation his only surviving brother was recognised as the ruler of Sattara under the title of Shreemun Maharaj Shajee Chutterputtee of Sattara.

The present Raja is about 43 years of age, and has exercised the powers entrusted to him with discretion and judgment. He has abolished suttee and slavery and inland duties and introduced the Company's currency throughout his territory. He has also introduced many wholesome reforms into the Civil and Criminal Courts of his country, and he is now constructing several important works of public utility.

* For details of early management, see: Raja Pratabsinh of Sattara by R. D. Choksey

The present Raja has no children, nor is there any male connection of his own who can be considered as having the right to succeed to the Government, in case of his demise.

The boundaries of the Sattarra State extend from the Kistna and Warna Rivers on the south to the Neera and Bheema Rivers to the north, and from the Western Ghats or Seyadree Hills on the west to the Districts of Punderpoor and Beejapoor on the east,

This country is composed of hill and valley—the valleys widening to the east and lessening to the west as they approach the great Syadree Range. Each of these valleys is watered, either by the great Rivers above mentioned, or by their tributary streams. The soil in these valleys is rich and productive, and the hills afford pasturage for numerous flocks of sheep and goats.

The chief produce is juvary, bajree, gram, wheat various kinds of leguminous and oil yielding plants, and the hills at Mahableshwar are full of iron ore, which if properly worked, would probably be very profitable.

The climate, except in April and May, is exceedingly fine. During these two months it is hot. But the mean annual temperature is not above 76.06 Fahrenheit. The south-west monsoon prevails throughout the country viz., from June till September inclusive—though the full rain is small—not averaging more than 38 inches annually.

The principal river is the Kistna, which rises in Mahableshwer, and after a course of 600 miles falls into the sea near Masulipatam. The other large rivers, likewise, the Neera, Yena, Warna, etc., all from the Bheema and Kistna rivers, either within or near the Sattara frontier.

The principal roads running through this territory are those from Poonah to Belgam via Sattara, and from Poonah to Punderpoor, which is the celebrated place of Hindoo pilgrimage and where, there are two large annual Juttras, at each of which, great fairs are held. The road from Poonah to Sattara is a made road. There are bridges over the Neera, Kishta and Yena rivers, and English carriages can be driven the whole way, except up the Bapdeo ghat near Poona.

This country has always been remarkable for its hill forts. The principal of these are Sattara, Purtabghur, Purlee, Wasota, Chundun, Wundun etc. Most of these forts are now dismantled, and in the rest only a few seebundees are kept up. The remains or the celebrated city of Beejapoor are also now included in the Sattara territory. The modern town is small and the population poor and wretched. But the country around is covered with mosque and mausoleums still in good preservation, and proving the wealth and the power of its former masters.

The revenues of the Sattara State for 1842/43 amounted to Rs. 14,53,418. The disbursement for the same season amounted to Rs. 14,45,563. But of these rupees 1,20,000 are paid annually, according to the Treaty, to the Ex Raja of Sattara for subsistence of himself and his family at Bunarus.

The Sattara Government pays no tribute to the British Government nor to any neighbouring State, nor has it any engagements with any of the neighbouring States in regard to the farming of portion of territory or otherwise—neither does this Government contribute in any way to the expense of the British troops at this station, which are all kept and paid by the British Government itself.

There is only one Local disciplined Regiment in the service of His Highness the Raja of Sattara. This was formed by the present Raja out of an indisciplined rabble of 1400 or 1500 men, formerly entertained by the Ex Raja, who were armed and dressed like sepoys, but quite unfit for any duty.

The best of these men were in 1839, selected by the present Raja, and formed into a Regiment 680 strong, which was then placed under the superintendence of the Staff Officer of Sattara with Native Commissioned Officers, and now Commissioned Officers of the British army, to act as instructors. This Regiment was supplied with (?) and accoutrement from our arsenal; and are dressed and disciplined like British sepoys. It has also a body of Golundawz with two good six pr. guns attached to it complete in bullocks and equipment—the whole is paid for by His Highness and forms a very effective body of men fit for any duty.

The Native force of this Government not under the British control consists of:

1st.	A body of Horse dressed and armed like the British cavalry.	200
2nd.	A body of Horse dressed and armed like the British irregular cavalry.	201
3rd.	A body of Horse dressed and armed like Mahratta cavalry.	160
4th.	A body of contingent Horse furnished by the Jageerdars dressed and armed like the British irregular cavalry.	235
5th.	Ditto Ditto by Surinjamdars.	26
		822

There is also a body of Seebundeeds amounting to 3,878 men, armed with swords and matchlocks, who perform the usual duties of collecting the revenues, guarding the treasures, escorting prisoners etc. and there is also a body of 1,675 Seth Sundeeds—a specie of local militia, who are only, however, liable to be called out, in case the Government see any occasion for their services. These men have assignments in land, and are only paid when actually doing duty—but they are valuable auxiliaries, and might be usefully employed when garrisoning the hill forts, and in other duties in time of war.

As regards the system of Police, I beg to state, that the **Sattara** country is divided into fourteen districts or pettas, over each of which is a mamlatdar, who is entrusted with both the revenue and police management of his district. Under him are a certain number of inferior officers called Shekdars, who, in like manner, have charge of the police and revenue of their villages and who act entirely under the mamlatdars.

The village patells and rukwaldars also have charge of the police of their respective villages and the business of the latter (the rukwaldars) is to trace all robberies to the adjoining villages, or to make good the amouut. This has been the system followed from time immemorial throughout this country, and judging by its effect, as shown in the preservation of general peace, and in the security of the individual life and property, it appears to me, that this system is very efficient.

The above remarks, I think embrace all the information called for in the Government letters now under reply, as regards the country of the Raja of Sattara, and I will now proceed to give a brief detail of the information called for, as regards the feudatory Jageerdars or chief of the Sattara Government, enumerated in the 3rd Paragraph of this despatch.

The first of these, in point of importance, is the Raja of Akulcot. The first agreement between him and the British Government is dated the 22nd April 1820, and the chief articles of this agreement are as follows :

His possessions, with the exception of those in the territories of the Nizam, are freely bestowed and restored as they stood before the War of 1817/18. But he is to be considered a Jageerdar of the Sattara Government, and to keep up a contingent of 100 Horse for the service of His Highness the Raja of Sattara—all his rights within the British and Sattara country are guaranteed to him, and in like manner, all existing rights within the Akulcot Jageer are to be continued—justice to be properly administered and good police maintained—all criminals to be mutually given up—and no extra troops levied—all disputes and other points to be referred to the Raja of Sattara, who, with the advice of the Resident, would decide, and these decisions to be binding, and finally no intercourse or communication is to be entered into with any persons not subjects of the Sattara Government, and this last stipulation is declared to be the basis of this agreement—which, if departed from, the Jageer will not be continued.

Similar Treaties were made in 1820 between the British Government and all the other Sattara Jageerdars, and also between them and His Highness the Raja of Sattara, and these continued in force until 1839 when by article 3rd, of the Supplemental Treaty made with the present Raja under date the 4th September 1839, these Jageerdars were placed under the direct management and control of the British Government, their contingent and pecuniary payments as fixed by the engagements of 1820, being reserved to His Highness, and in this position matters now stand.

As regards this family (of Akulcot) Captain Grant in his History of the Mahrattas page 417 vol. 1st states—“ during the attack (of a place the name of which is not stated) a woman bear-

ing a boy in her arms rushed towards Shao and threw down the child, calling out that she devoted him to the Raja's service. Shao took charge of him, called him Futteh Sing—to which he afterwards added his own surname of Bhonslay, and always treated him like his own son. Such was the extraordinary origin of the Raja's of Akulcot”.

The present Raja's name is Shahjee Bhonslay. He is the decendant of the nephew of Futehsing, and is now about 24 years of age. He has a son about six years of age and a brother a little younger than himself. The son or brother, in default of a son, would be the rightful heir.

The Jageer is bounded to the west by the British territory of Sholapoor and to the north and east by His Highness the Nizam's country. The climate and production are much the same as those of the Eastern Districts of the Sattara country. There is no river or highroad of any importance through the Jageer.

The annual revenue of Akulcot Jageer in 1842/43 was rupees 1,40,408 and its expenses for the same season were Rupees 1,28,579. It pays no tribute to the British Government. But it is bound to furnish a contingent of 100 Horses for the service of the Sattara State at an annual charge of 3,000 rupees.

There are 50 local horses, 300 seebundees and 300 seth sundees kept up by the Raja of Akulcot, for revenue and police purposes. The silledars (Horse) receive Rs. 15 per month—the seebundees 4 or 5 rupees per month and the seth sundees have land and 15 rupees each per annum—all these men are armed as Mahrattas viz., with swords—spears—and matchlocks which are found by themselves.

The system of police is the same as in the Sattara country. The country being divided into districts, and each village being responsible for its own police. And this system, judging from the security of person and property, seems to work out well.

With the Punt Prity Niddy, who is the next Chief mentioned in paragraph 3rd of this Report, an engagement was also entered into by the British Government on the 22nd April 1820, to the same effect as that with the Raja of Akulcot, except that the Prity Niddy was not bound to furnish any contingent of Horse to the Sattara Raja, and that a sum of rupees 2,000 annually was

to be paid by the Pritty Niddy to the Sattara Raja, instead of to the Punt Suchoo.

The Pritty Niddy was the officer of the highest dignity under the old Mahratta dynasty. He ranked above all eight Pradhans, even above the Peshwa himself. This rank was instituted about the year A. D. 1690, and the term Prettie Niddee literally means the likeness or representation of the Raja himself.

The name of the present Chief is Purusram Shreeneewas as Pritty Niddy. He was born in A. D. 1776, the day on which his father died. His life has been one of great vicissitude. He was often in rebellion, and in an engagement with the Peshwa's army in A. D. 1807, he was routed and left for dead on the field. On this occasion he lost his right hand and was also desperately wounded and being made a prisoner was deprived by Bajee Rao Peshwa of all his possessions, of which he now holds a very small portion. The present Pritty Niddy has no son, neither is there any heir to this jageer in case of his demise.

The jageer of the Punt Pritty Niddy consists of about 90 villages, which are in the midst of the Sattara country. The climate, production etc., of these villages are the same as those of Sattara. The revenue of this jageer for 1842/43 was rupees 68, 202 and its expenses 68, 202.

The Pritty Niddy has got about 40 Native Portuguese in his service as sepoy, and in addition to these, he keeps 30 Horse, 115 seebundeas and 300 sethsundeas for the protection of his country, who are only fit for revenue and police duties. The police is on the same footing as that in the Sattara country. But not so efficient—as the Pritty Niddy himself now takes no interest in public affairs and leaves everything to his karbarees.

An engagement also exists between the Punt Suchoo, the third Jageerdar mentioned in paragraph 3rd, and the British Government. It is dated 22nd April 1820. It is in all points the same as the engagement with the Akulcot—except that the Punt Suchoo is not bound to furnish any contingent Horse to the Raja of Sattara. But he is bound by this to pay rupees 900 annually to His Highness, in lieu of certain items of revenue therein specified.

The Punt Suchoo is the title of one of the eight Pradhans of the Mahratta Empire established by Sevajee in A. D. 1669. The

present Punt is a boy of fourteen years of age— an adopted son of the late Punt, but duly recognised and confirmed, both by the British and the Sattara Government.

The chief part of the Punt Sucho's territory lies along the Sayadree Hills from the Neera river to the Bhor Ghat. This is within British limits, and includes the districts where Sevajee originally established himself. The Punt has villages, both above and below the hills, and six strong hill forts. The revenue in 1842/43 amounted to rupees 1,05,134. He is, at present, heavily encumbered with debts. But this debt will be cleared of in six or eight years. The climate is cold and more rain than Sattara country, and the productions less valuable being chiefly, with the exception of rice, nagly and other poorer kinds of grain.

The police force kept up by the Punt Sucho consists of 15 Horse, 12 seebundeas and 200 sethsundeas, and considering the difficult nature of the country, and the character of the Mawullees, Ramoosees and other wild and predatory tribes which inhabit it, the tranquillity maintained in it of late years, is very satisfactory.

An argument, similar in all its provisions to that with the Raja of Akulcot, was concluded between the British Government and the Naiks of Phultun on the same date viz., the 22nd April 1820, the only difference being that the latter is bound only to maintain a contingent of 90 Horse, of which 75 are for the service of His Highness the Raja of Sattara, and 15 are to remain with the Naik—each Horse, as in the case of Akulcot, to be of the value of 3 or 480 rupees and each silladar to receive 300 rupees annual pay.

The family, of the Naiks of Phultun, is considered one of the most ancient in Maharashtra. Their designation of Nimbalkur is derived from the village of Nimbalek, now called Nimbluk. The origin of their Deshmookee claims in Phultun by the kings of Beejapoor before the middle of the 17th century. The sister of Jugpal, one of the most celebrated Naiks of Phultun, who lived in the early part of the 17th century, was grandmother of Sevajee, the founder of the Mahratta Empire.

The name of the present Jageerdar of Phultun is Saibjee Bye Nimbalkur, who holds it in right of her deceased husband Jan Rao Naik. She has adopted a son from the original stock of this family,

who is called Moodhojee Naik. He is about six years of age. But he will not succeed to the Jageer until his adoptive mother's death.

The jageer consisting of 80 villages lies on the south bank of the Neera river. Its revenue in 1842/43 was rupees 74,006 and its expenses rupees 72,754, of which a considerable portion is set aside annually, for the payment of debts, in fulfilment of an engagement entered into, with the creditors by the Raja of Sattara. But it pays no tribute to any neighbouring State.

The soil is fertile producing jowary, bajree, wheat, gram etc., and the town of Phultun is populous, and carries on a considerable inland trade. Its climate is drier than that of Sattara, there being very little rain, and that generally at the end of the season. It has the Nera river to the north, and the highroad from Poona to Punderpoor runs through this district.

Besides, the contingent of 100 Horse above alluded to, the Naiks of Phultun keep up 100 seebundeeds and 100 seth sundees for revenue and police purposes, and the police management here is the same as that in the Sattara territory.

An agreement also exists between the British Government and Duffley Deshmukhs of Juth Kuruzghee. It is dated 22nd April 1822. It contains the same provisions as those enumerated above, except that the contingent of the Duffley, for the service of His Highness the Raja of Sattara, is fixed at 50 Horse.

The Dufflays are the hereditary Deshmukhs of the purgunnas of Juth and Kuruzghee near Beejapoor. Their original name was Chowan, and they acquired the name of Dufflay from their village of Dufflapoor, of which they were the hereditary Patells. The present Jageerdar is Bhageerthee Bye Duffley, who holds it in right of her deceased husband Ram Rao Duffley. She has adapted a son from the Oomranee branch of this family, who is called Amroot Rao Duffley, and who is about ten years old. But he will not succeed to the Jageer until his adoptive mother's death.

This jageer consists of 120 villages and lies about 90 miles south east of the town of Sattara. It is a wild waste country, and the inhabitants were formerly notorious for their predatory habits. Its revenue in 1842/43 was rupees 48,765 and its expenses rupees 48,661. It pays no tribute to any neighbouring State. This

jageer is much intersected by black barren rocky hills. But the little streams that run through the valleys are used for irrigation, and fine crops of wheat are thus obtained. Its climate and natural productions are the same as those of the Eastern Districts of the Sattara State, and it has no river or road of any note running through it.

Besides the contingent of 50 Horse mentioned above, the Jageerdar of Jath maintains 10 Horse, 150 seebundeeds and 125 seth sundees for revenue and police purposes, and the police is on the same footing as that in the Sattara country.

Sheik Khan Mahomad, the last of the Jageerdars..would be too insignificant to notice here, were it not that engagement exists with him dated in 1820 and 1827, much to the same purport as those with other feudatories of this Government. His contingent of Horse, for the service of His Highness the Raja of Sattara, however, only amounts to 10 Horse, and he has only one village within his territory viz., Pusurnee in the neighbourhood of Wae. His ancestors were mahomedan soldiers of fortune under the Rajas of Sattara, and their present right appear to have been conferred on them by Shao Maharaj about the year A. D. 1707.

The above is a brief outline of the country and of its chiefs under the superintendence of the Resident of Sattara, and I have only to express my regret, that sickness and the pressing nature of other duties should have so long delayed the transmission of this Report.

I beg leave, likewise, to forward herewith, the outline sketch map* of the Sattara State, and of the Districts belonging to the feudatory Chiefs above described as called forth in paragraph 3rd of the Circular letter of the Government of India No. 692 under date the 9th September 1843.

No. 46. An interview with the Resident Lieutenant Colonel J. Outram, in which the Raja blames his Dewan Jeswant Trimbak for certain intrigues and involvement in the murder of a bramin. The Dewan suspended and investigations held. A communication from

* No map was found with the Report

the Dewan to the Resident in his defence and other correspondence.
(From J. Outram, Resident, to J. P. Willoughby)

26th August 1845

Sir,

With reference to my previous demi-official communication on the subject of the difference, which had arisen between the Raja of Sattara and his Dewan Eshwunt Trimbuck, I regret to report for the information of the Honorable the Governor in Council that, it has now come to a open rupture between His Highness and the Minister.

Late yesterday the Residency carcoon received a letter from the latter of which accompaniment No. 1 is translation ; I had shortly before received an intimation from the Raja, that he proposed visiting me on business this forenoon. Supposing that the object of both parties was the same, I caused the answer (translate) No. 2 to be sent to the Dewan.

At 11 a. m. the Raja came, attended as usual, by the Dewan the Furnavees and Chitnees. After the usual preliminary conversation, the Dewan said he had a petition to make, which with the acquiescence of the Raja, he then stated, much to the effect of his letter No. 1. His Highness displayed much indignation, and after denying that he had ever exercised undue severity, or otherwise, then in the course of his duty, entertained the accusations regarding murder of the bramin, referred to in the Dewan's petition, which justice imposed on him to investigate, whether the accusations against the highest or the lowest of his subjects, said, " since you have chosen thus to bring my affairs before the Resident, I now openly declare the reason why I have been compelled to withdraw my confidence from you; you to this day, secretly corresponding with Wassoodew, who is accused of the murder of a member of my household—and, until that case has been sifted, I cannot but suspect you of being concerned, since you thus continue to have an understanding with that man." His Highness then turned to me and said, that he hoped he should not be required to admit the Dewan to the Palace, or to continue him in the exercise of that functions of his office, until he (the Dewan) should clear himself of the charge which had now been brought against him. The Dewan declared that he was ready and anxious to meet the investigation.

I replied, that so long, as so serious a suspicion was entertained against the Minister, which until disapproved, it was natural should disincline His Highness to transact business with him, as well as cause distrust, it rested with His Highness to take measures for carrying on the affairs of the State without the interference of Eshwunt Trimback, until the latter had declared himself of the charge now pending against him, but that I trusted His Highness would guard against any public inconvenience resulting from the temporary suspension of the Minister, and requested to know thro' whom, in the interim, I should communicate to His Highness.

The Raja pointed to Sukaram Bapoojee, the Furnavees, and said he would receive all communications, heretofore, transmitted through the Dewan.

In the course of conversation I mentioned that every exertion was being made for the production of Wassodew Rungoonath, who had, heretofore, evaded arrest by concealment, but could not long escape detention.

From the apparent connection which the Dewan has maintained with Wassodew Rungoonath, while under so serious an accusation, and subsequent suspicion of concern in the crime of which that person is accused, as reported in my despatch to your address dated 21st June last, I cannot be surprised, that distrust should have arisen in His Highness's mind, which only at last has been openly expressed; in consequence of the Minister's own proceedings. Under these circumstances I see not how His Highness could now do otherwise, than suspend the Minister from the duties of his office, pending the trial of Wassodew Rungoonath.

No. 1. Translation of a note from Eshwunt Trimback Deewan (of H. H. the Raja of Sattara) to Eshwunt Raojee (Head karkoon of the Sattara Residency.)

24th August 1845

A. C.

In consequence of the Maharaj Surkar (H. H.) having been agitated by bad feelings towards me, I personally presented a yad to the Saheb under date the 21st June 1845, on which I was informed by the Saheb, that the Maharaj Surkar would not disgrace

my character—and the Maharaj Surkar also addressed a yad to the Saheb stating that he would not disgrace my reputation ; accordingly I was in attendance on the Maharaj Surkar—but certain persons (mundullee) have, however, persuaded the Maharaj Surkar to be very hostile on me day by day—and attempts have been carried on, in every way, to occasion my utter ruin. It is understood, that in the case connected with the death of Bhagoo Byee, our names are caused to be put down in the writing, obtained from the slanderous individuals. The mundullee (certain persons) have now caused a Bramin to present an urzee this day at the time the complaints are heard (by H. H.) to the effect—“ that Eshwunt Foujdar has murdered a Bramin by poisoning him ” that petition, the Maharaj Surkar, has caused to be read in the Cutcherry, and transferred it to the Fouzdaree (Criminal Court). I, then, beg to state, that, as His Highness is very hard on me, and that he is about to investigate himself, I feel it great difficulty to be even in attendance on His Highness—and in the event of this case being inquired into thither (by H. H.), my character would not be saved—nor would the case be investigated properly. His Highness is prejudiced in his mind and my character would not, in any way, be safe. I, therefore, request the Saheb should cause that this case may be investigated before him (the Resident), and the Saheb will then preceive, by whom and in what manner, this trachery was caused to be formed against me—these cases have been raised against me from enmity, and if these cases be not inquired into in the presence of the Saheb, my character and life would not be saved—in case, His Highness should make a representation, at any time against me to the Saheb, let the Saheb, out of kindness, call on me for a reply, and I would then make the necessary representation. I have been residing at this place from the time of Merban Captain Grant Saheb Bahadoor, no complaints have hitherto been preferred against me before both Governments—but within these four months false accusations have now been raised against me from enmity—let the Saheb institute an inquiry into this matter, when it will be known—I am most anxious to pay a visit to the Saheb, and I will then represent every thing to the Saheb—inform to the Huzrut Resident Saheb Bahadoor what is stated above, and return an answer, in order to enable me, to come on a visit – keep kindness, this is my entreaty.

No. 2. *Translation of a note from Eshwunt Rao, Head karkoon, of the Sattara Residency to Eshwunt Rao Bhao—Deewan—dated 24th August 1845.*

A. C.

I have duly informed the contents of your note of the 24th instant, to the Huzrut Resident Saheb Bahadoor, it is stated in that note—"that the Maharaj Surkar has it in contemplation that your character should not be safe in any way—and, therefore, requesting that the Saheb should investigate the accusation against you in his presence, and, also, requesting a communication as to your coming on a visit to the Saheb, in order to represent the matter in person, so it is mentioned". In reply I beg to say that the case alluded to by you is to be investigated only by the Maharaj Surkar, and no interference can be exercised from hence (by the Resident) in that case. After the case is fully investigated by the Maharaj Surkar, and provided any injustice is done towards you without sufficient cause, you can then make it known here (to the Resident) – but should you now wish to make a representation in person, the Maharaj Surkar (H. H.) is about to come here on a visit tomorrow at 11 O'clock a. m., you will also accompany His Highness at that time, when the Huzrat Saheb Bahadoor will hear your representation in presence of the Maharaj Surkar. I have been ordered by the Huzrat Saheb Bahadoor to write to you in this manner and I have done so accordingly—keep kindness—this is my entreaty. *

No. 47. *The Raja's contribution to the fund for the relief of the Irish during the Potato Famine in Ireland. (From J. Outram to E. P. Dunvers, Secretary , Irish Relief Fund, 1845)*

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated 15th instant, enclosing a Hoondie for rupees two thousand, being the amount of His Highness the Raja of Sattara's subscription to the Fund for the distressed Irish, and to inform you that the said Hoondie has been paid into the Bank of Bombay on account of the Fund in question.

* No further correspondence was found on this subject.

I have been requested by the Committee, appointed to receive donation in aid of the distressed Irish, to beg you will kindly express to His Highness the Raja of Sattara, the high sense they entertain of his liberality and benevolence, and offer their thanks for his munificent contribution.

No. 48. The Governor of Bombay congratulating the Raja for his mild and efficient administration of his State. (From W. Escombe, Secretary to the Government of Bombay, to the Raja of Satara).

Translation of a letter from the Honorable George Russell Clerk Esqr., Governor of Bombay to His Highness the Raja of Satara.

24th April 1847

A. C.

Further Lieutenant Colonel Outram* C. B. the British Resident, at Your Highness's Court, having in a report dated 1st January last, brought to the notice of my Government the efficient and mild rule which is exercised by Your Highness over your subjects, and the improvement which has taken place in the judicial administration of your country, I beg to communicate to Your Highness the extreme satisfaction I have derived from a perusal of this report, and which reflects the highest honour upon Your Highness.

I beg at the same time to state that it will afford my Government the highest gratification to be enabled to submit so satisfactory a report to the Honorable the Court of Directors.

For the rest etc., etc.,

No. 49. Mr. H. B. E. Frere* to succeed Lieutenant Colonel J. Outram as Resident at the Court of Satara. (From A. Malet, Secretary, Government of Bombay to Lieutenant Colonel J. Outram).

1st May 1847

* Lieutent Colonel J. Outram left Sattara on the 21st March 1847 on sick leave and resumed duty in April and was succeeded by Mr. H.B.E.Frere.

Sir,

I am directed to inform you, that the Honorable the Governor in Council, has been pleased to appoint Mr. H. B. E. Frere, of the Bombay Civil Service, to succeed you in the office of the Resident at Sattara; and that a letter from, the Honorable the Governor, to the address of His Highness the Raja, intimating this appointment, will be transmitted to you at an early date for the purpose of delivery to His Highness*.

No. 50. Letter intimating the death of Ex Raja of Sattara at Baneras. (From H. B. E. Frere, Resident at Sattara, to Captain D. C. Graham, Political Superintendent at Kolhapur).

12th November 1847

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose a copy of a yad from H. H. the Raja of Sattara intimating the death of Prutap Singh Maharaj (the Ex Raja) of Sattara which took place at Bunarus on Thursday Ashvin Soodh 5th (14th October 1847) and which intelligence His Highness requests may be communicated to H. H. the Raja of Kolapoor and Her Highness Tarra Ahoo Saheb.

*From

A. Malet Esqr.,
Sec. to the Govt. of Bombay

To

Lieutenant Colonel J. Outram, C. B.
XXIII Regiment, Bombay N. I.
Sattara.

Political Department

Dated 1st May 1847

Sir,

I am directed to inform you that the Hon'ble the Governor in Council is pleased to appoint you to the office of Resident at Baroda and that an intimation will, hereafter, be made to you of the amount of salary which you will be permitted to draw while holding the appointment.

Bombay Castle
1st May 1847

Sd. A. Malet
Sec. to the Govt. of Bombay

No. 51. Table showing the quantity of sugarcane grown and the sugar and goor produced in the Districts of the Sattara State.
14th July 1847

Statement showing the extent of land cultivated with sugarcane and the quantity of sugar and goor produced and consumed in the Districts belonging to H. H. the Raja of Sattara.

No.	Names of Pettas or Districts	Estimated culti- vation of cane in beegas of 40,000 sq. feet			Estimated pro- duce from cane in puka maunds of 40 seers or 80 lbs. each			Estimated consumption from this produce in the Districts during the year in puka maunds of 80 lbs. each		
		Bigas	Pds.	Mds.	Goor srs.	tk.	Sugar srs.	tk.	Mds.	Sugar srs.
1	Sattara	265	1½	4,021	1½	12	Number of date trees nor esti- mated produce from date trees was available for both goor and sugar	6,822	30½	12 499 38 15
2	Jaolee	80	7½	397	12½	0		384	26½	0 26 8½ 0
3	Tasgam	334	15½	4,764	3½	0		3,319	22½	0 132 33½ 0
4	Kurrad	389	4	358	38	0		3,465	7	0 114 6½ 0
5	Walwa	1040	10	19,155	20	0		10,198	20	0 69 22 0
6	Khutao	159	8½	2,159	38	0		5,515	2½	0 325 32½ 0
7	Khanapoor	623	3½	6,280	5½	0		7,153	29½	0 124 9½ 0

8	Wye	528	12	8,073	2	0	6,879	30½	0	793	3	0
9	Koragam	98	2¼	1,248	19½	0	2,225	0	0	90	12	0
10	Punderpoor	72	12½	779	21	0	6,524	17	9	267	24½	0
11	Beejapoor	42	3¼	278	28½	0	2,482	39¾	0	38	22	13½
Total		3634	75¼	47,516	190¼	12	54,972	215½	21	2,483	241¾	28½

Remarks :

1. There are no date trees within this territory-neither is sugar manufactured from the cane. Sugar is imported from foreign countries, Bombay, Bhoom (Nizam's territory) and Oomurawutty (Berar) for internal consumption.
2. Goor is imported for internal consumption in these districts from Wurgaum and Kolapoor territory.
3. The goor produced in these districts is generally consumed in the districts and in the event of high prices being obtainable, it is so sometimes exported to Poonah, Mhar and Chiploon in the British territories.
4. 10 square feet make a square kathey or stick-20 katheys = 1 biga.

Md. = Maunds
srs. = Seers
tk. = Tank

Sattara Residency

True Translation
Sd. H. B. E. Frere
Resident at Sattara

No. 52. Abstracts from Reports by the Residents from 1839 to 1848 showing the advantages resulting from the able administration of the Raja Shahji of Satara. A memorandum of the sums spent by the Raja on the construction of public works in his State.

Abstracts showing the advantages resulting to the Sattara State from the able administration of Shahjee Maharaj alias Appa Saheb.

1839

Government letter 9th December No. 2029. The Resident having reported the Raja's anxiety to found a hospital for the benefit of his poor subjects, the Resident is requested "to communicate to the Raja the high satisfaction experienced by Government. On being informed of H.H.'s resolution to establish an institution, which is calculated to be of the greatest benefit to his subjects and more especially the poorest classes".

With reference to the establishment of this institution, the Secretary on attendance on the Governor General, informs the Government of Bombay "that the circumstance has afforded great satisfaction to His Lordship".

The Resident having reported H. H.'s intention to undertake several very extensive works of great public utility, Government informed the Resident, that they were "highly gratified to learn the laudable intention of H. H. to appropriate a portion of his revenue to the works of great improvement and utility".

The Resident having reported that H. H. the Raja had issued a Proclamation abolishing Suttie and Transit Duties, and making the Company's rupee the currency of his dominions, and stating that the first of these measures was an entirely spontaneous act on H. H.'s part, Mr. Secretary Maddock stated, that "the circumstance had offered much satisfaction to His Lordship".

1840

The bad state of the roads between Sattara and Belgaum having been brought to the notice of Government, they directed the Resident to enquire how far H. H. was willing to co-operate in the improvement of that portion of the line which lay within

his own territory. In reply, the Raja undertook to erect travellers bungalows at the three villages of Dewar, Sap and Kurregaum on the road to Belgaum via Tasgaon. The Government directed to "express to H. H. the gratification of Government, at the ready manner in which H. H. has intimated his willingness, to co-operate in the measure of affording accommodation for travellers along the line of road from Poona to Belgaum."

1841

H. H. having issued a Proclamation declaring the buying and selling of slaves in his country to be illegal from the 16th August 1841, the Resident was directed "to communicate to the Raja the great satisfaction, the Government had the proof of, his co-operation in so good and humane a cause."

This circumstance having been reported to the Government of India, Mr. Secretary Maddock, was directed "in reply to observe, that it is very gratifying to the Governor General in Council, to find the present Raja of Sattara, enforcing those principles of Government which display liberality of sentiment and general philanthropy."

Two field pieces, six pounders, have been presented to H. H. "as a mark of approbation of Government for the highly useful and praiseworthy works now under construction under Sattara, which are equally beneficial to the British territory and to his own."

This step and the arrangements connected with it "met with the approval of the Rt. Hon. the Governor General of India in Council". The guns were forwarded with a letter from the Governor.

In reply to the Resident's Annual Report, on the state of the Sattara territory, Mr. Secretary Blane, was desired to inform him "that the Governor in Council considered it highly satisfactory." The Report having been communicated to the Governor General in Council, Mr. Secretary Maddock, was directed to state that "the Governor General in Council fully concurs in the opinion expressed by Government of Bombay, and that His Lordship, would have much pleasure in drawing the particular attention of the home authorities, to the amelioration which has been produced

in the condition of that country, since the accession of the present Rajah. ”

This was done in a special despatch, and in reply, the Court stated, that they considered the Report “extremely favorable”, and noticed with approbation the measures of abolition of suttee and transit duties and slavery—the introduction of the Company’s rupee—the reform of various public departments and introduction of greater regularity in the administration of Justice—the reduction in expenditure—the commencement of many works of utility, and observed that “the subsequent conduct of the Raja had been governed by the same desire to meet the approbation of the British Government. ”

In forwarding the extract from the despatch, Mr. Secretary Reid, instructed the Resident “to inform H. H., that his Government has derived the highest satisfaction in learning that H. H.’s enlightened policy is so fully appreciated by the Honourable Court ”.

1842

The Resident having been instructed to communicate to H. H. the Raja, the Governor General’s Proclamation of the 3rd January 1842, stating the course which the Government of India were determined to pursue to retrieve our disaster in Afghanistan, the Raja begged the Resident to place all his military means at the disposal of the British Government, wherever the General in Command might be pleased to direct.

In reply, Mr. Secretary Willoughby, was desired to express “the satisfaction of the Governor in Council at this proof of H. H.’s attachment to the British Government. ”

The offer having been forwarded to the Government of India, Mr. Secretary Maddock, was instructed to state, “that this proof of the Raja’s devotion to the British Government is highly praiseworthy and very gratifying to the Governor General in Council. ”

In reply to the Resident’s Annual Report for 1842, the officer was informed that the description of internal management of the country was considered by the Governor in Council, “to be very satisfactory”. The testimony borne by the Resident to the great

activity evinced by H. H. in the General management of affairs of his State, was "highly gratifying, and reflects great credit upon H. H.", the mildness of whose administration was, in particular favorably noticed. The Resident's account of the progress made in works of public utility, "which H. H. had so generously undertaken", was considered by Government "very satisfactory" and the Resident was desired to communicate to H. H. "the high satisfaction of Government with the public spirit he evinced in the prosecution of these works."

*1844**

The reply to the Annual Report for 1844, the Resident was informed that "the information of the continued prosperity of Sattara State was very satisfactory". Government noticed that the Resident bore "the most gratifying testimony to the zeal and activity which H. H. the Raja continues to evince in the general management of the affairs of his State." The results of the management of H. H.'s hospital were considered to "afford gratifying proof, that the valuable boon which H. H. has conferred upon the inhabitants of the Sattara District, by the establishment of this hospital, is fully appreciated by all classes of H. H.'s subjects."

These proceedings have been reported to the Honorable Court were considered "as being of a highly satisfactory character". They noticed his adherence "to the laudable practice of confining his ordinary expenses, so far within his income, as to leave a surplus applicable to works of public utility". Those works, reported by Colonel Ovans, were considered to "reflect great honor on H. H.'s administration", and other measures were noticed with approbation.

1845

The Resident in his Annual Report for the year 1844, enclosed a letter from Lt. Colonel Brough, Commanding 2nd Brigade, Kolapoor Force, expressing the high sense he entertained of the exemplary manner in which the troops of both cavalry and infantry, at all times, while under his command on Field Service in Kolapoor, had carried on their duties.

* There was no Report for 1843.

1846

In reply to Colonel Outram's Report for the year 1845, the Government observed, that the "information he had submitted was highly satisfactory" and reflects great credit on H. H. for the efficient manner in which he conducts the administration of his State, and directed that the Resident should make an intimation to this effect to H. H.

1847

In commenting on the Report for the previous year the Court of Directors observe that "it is highly creditable to the Raja's administration". And in commenting on the Report for 1846, the Honorable the Court, observes that "it is in almost every respect extremely favorable".

1848

(The Report records the death of His Highness but nothing else than only a line calling upon the Resident to quote para. 8 at length. What the para, 8 was not given).

Memorandum of the sums spent by H. H. the late Raja of Sattara in the construction of public buildings, roads, aqueduct and other public works etc., etc.,

Rupees

1, 93,977	For (2) two bridges over the Kristna and the Yena Rivers on the Poona road with approaches.
5,46,753	Expended by H. H. in building for the use of the Durbar including both a Palace for H. H.'s residence and public offices.
1,62,865	For completing the aqueduct from Eteshwar and making a cistern in the Goorwar Peth.
6,000	For the construction of a new hospital.
11,690	For completing the roads to Mahableshtar and Neera bridge.
17,000	For making a tank by building a dam across Yena River at Mahableshtar.
30,195	For the erection of Barracks for the use of the men of His Highness's Local Regiment.

9,000	Bungalows erected on the road from Poona to Belgaum via Tadgaon for the accommodation of European travellers : 3,000 At Mojeý Deoor 3,000 At Mojeý Sap 3,000 At Mojeý Kudeegaum 9,000
99,816	Miscellaneous.
22,764	For the Parade bungalow with three ranges of outhouses around and a wall on the southward.
7,000	For building a new tank near the bunglow on the Poona road.
21,527	Stables built for the drilled Bargeer Horse.
5,661	For temples in the City.
3,750	For new bridges built in the City : 1. On going to the Palace to the Julmundeer. 1. Over the nala near the Dowlka Warra. 1. Over the nala on the road leading from Boodhwara Peth to Mahableshtar. 3
10,000	For tanks built in the City near the Phuras Khana and near the bridge on the way to the Julmundeer.
29,114	For the Julmundeer in the Sookrawar Peith.

18th April 1848

No. 53. Anonymous Petition to the Governor of Bombay stating the complicity of a number of native servants, on the death of the Raja, to embezzle the state treasury and falsify the accounts. The indifference of the Resident and his connivance at the frauds perpetrated.

Persian Department

Abstract of an anonymous Petition to the Right Honorable the Governor in Council dated 27th April and received 11th May 1848.

I beg to submit the following paragraphs regarding the state of affairs at Sattara since the death of Shahjee Maharaj.

1. As the balances of cash in all establishments and as the "roomals" were not soon put under lock and key, embezzlement took place.

2. When the balances of cash were locked not all of them were locked.

3. As the balances were merely counted and as the papers were made over to the same officers (who had them before) they committed much embezzlement.

4. When the balances were counted, an item of Rs. 22,700 was found in the private balance. Oomabae Tarkusheen claims the money, and the karkhandur also admits her claim. A memorandum, which was in the balance, proved the money to be Government property but still no enquiry was made, and the papers were made over to the same kamdar to be prepared.

5. The persons, who have the charge of the balances say, that they have no knowledge of the receipts and disbursements and that there are no accounts. Many persons are aware that several ornaments and gold and silver were carried away during the confusion, but still no enquiry was made. When they got hold of the papers they destroyed them. At the time of his death, the Raja said, that the balances should be examined according to the memorandum, but still no enquiry was made. Moreover, it is said, there is no memorandum. The Maharaj has by these proceedings suffered a loss of about two, or two and a half lacs, of rupees.

6. Govinda Yekbotia having bribed Oomabae got her to commit irregular acts, and to have mamluts entrusted to inexperienced persons from whom he had received money. On this subject, a petition was some time back, submitted in the name of the Resident but it is not forthcoming. Govinda now alone is imprisoned, but the inquiry is not carried through with the assistance of a person possessing the requisite information. The name of the person, who possesses full information on the subject, was

mentioned in the first petition but he was not sent for to be examined.

7. The Furnees has the charge of a sum of Rs. 36,000 but the Sabey has not yet put the money under lock and key. The accounts regarding it were destroyed and thrown into water and new ones have been prepared. The sepoy informed the Sabey of this but he will not fully enquire into the (affair).

8. Promises are held out to Yeshwuntrao but neither an enquiry is instituted nor is he set free.

9. The Ranee Saheybs have been promised the recognition of the adoption of Mahadow Rao Govind who is concerned in all these affairs. Although the Saheb learnt that Mahadowrao had received bribes the matter is suppressed. Mahadowrao receives much bribe.

10. There are many such cases, and if a full enquiry be instituted, they will come to notice. Unrootrao is aware of some of the cases, and if he be fully promised (?) he will prove them. When he proves a case or two, other persons, who are acquainted with any other matters, will privately appear before the Resident and furnish the information. If no promise be held out to Umrootrao, and if he be found to make a statement, he will deny knowledge of every thing. If he make such deposition people will think that the Resident is interested in the matter, and will not come forward to furnish any information. Umrootrao is well acquainted with English and if he be satisfied, and he begin to furnish information, we shall bring to notice what we know. If he will not furnish the information he possesses, we shall be afraid to represent what we know.

No. 54. The Resident's report denying the accusations made in a anonymous petition. All necessary steps were taken to safeguard the treasury and the property of the late Raja immediately after his death. All conspiracy nipped in the bud and all suspicious characters arrested. Efforts made to trace the author of the anonymous petition. (From H. B. E. Frere, Resident to A. Malet, Secretary to the Government of Bombay).

Political Dept.

Referred from the report of the Resident at Sattara.

Bombay Castle

By order etc.

7th June 1848

(signed) A. Malet
C. Secretary

O. No. 349

No. 62 of 1848

Report by the Resident

1. The Resident at Sattara begs to submit the following remarks on the above petition :

2. As reported in para 19 of the Resident's letter No. 31 of the 6th April and 8th of No. 344 of the 12th idem, all cash balances and records were put under lock and key, and sealed up, within a few hours of the Raja's death, as far as the knowledge of the Resident and his establishment, and the recollection of the Rajas's ministers, rendered practicable at a moment of considerable bustle and distraction. In the case of all public offices, the entire *buildings*, and in the case of the Raja's private treasuries, the entire *rooms* were locked up, and sentries of His Highness's Regiment stationed at the door. A few places, in which property of different descriptions belonging to Raja was usually kept, escaped notice, the night of the Raja's death, and were not locked up and sealed, some till the next day, others not till two or three days afterwards ; but the omission to point out such property at the moment of the Raja's death, was, in every case, explained by the parties who had the charge of it, to the Resident's satisfaction, and he has in no case, seen reason to suspect that any embezzlement took place *after* the Raja's death.

3. All balances of cash, of which the Resident has any knowledge were, as above stated, locked up, as soon as their existence was made known. The assertion in the petition may have arisen from some of the money required for current expenses having been counted and made over to the officers in charge of it, within a day or two of the Raja's death.

4. The papers made over to the officers who had them before, were the current accounts, without which the business of the offices of disbursement would have stood still ; the Resident considered it desirable for obvious reasons, to avoid any such suspension of business, in the public offices, and to get the public

servants to work as speedily as possible ; but, in each cases before the papers were given up, to the officers in whose hands they had previously been entrusted, the balance in hand, on the morning of the Raja's death, was noted, and the usual means adopted to prevent any papers being changed, so that, whatever embezzlement may have taken place *previous* to the Raja's death, the Resident is not aware of any means by which embezzlement could have been committed afterwards. The Resident would also beg to remark that, as regards public accounts, he does not think embezzlement, under any circumstance, could have been easily effected, since the treasurer is forbidden to pay a single rupee without an order written and entered in the Duftar, dated by the Furnavees (who acted as the Raja's Chief Minister) and signed by the Raja himself ; so that all the officers named must have combined to forge the Raja's signature, before any money could have been paid out without His Highness's authority. A similar system has been since kept up, the Resident's signature substituted for the Raja's.

5. For two days previous to His Highness's death, being too weak to write much, he ordered the drafts on the treasury to be sealed in his presence, instead of signing them ; but this only rendered necessary to any conspiracy to embezzlement the connivance of two more parties viz., first, the keeper of the seals, who has already been forbidden to produce the seals except in the presence of the sovereign, and who is never himself allowed to use them ; and 2ndly, the sickanees who is one of the principal ministers of the State, who is not allowed to keep the seals, and who was prohibited from affixing them to any papers except by the sovereign's orders.

6. The Resident has, moreover, examined all drafts so sealed instead of having been signed, and has found none of any but *routine* payment ; and therefore see no reason whatsoever to suspect the parties concerned, of embezzlement as charged in the petition.

7. When the resident was sealing up a room, which formed a part of the private treasury, Oomabae Tarkuseen, a female dependent of His Highness, sent in a memorandum stating that Rs. 22,700 belonging to her were those deposited in boxes of which she produced the keys. This room had been under the sole personal control of His late Highness. On counting the contents two

boxes were found, corresponding with the description given by Oomabae, and a servant of His Highness in her interest (the karkhandar mentioned in the petition) was detected, by the activity of Major James commanding at Sattara (who had kindly offered to assist in the work of making inventories of the property) in an attempt to abstract a paper contained in one of them.

8. This paper proved that the money belonged to His Highness, and the man, on being examined, confessed to having given the keys, of which he had charge, to Oomabae, and to having promised to assist her in gaining possession of the paper which he and Oomabae happened to know was the only proof of the falsehood of her claim to the ownership of the money. On a reference to Oomabae, she confessed her claim to be false. He acknowledged to this effect on 22nd April. The latter part of this para of the petition, stating that no enquiry was made and the paper has been given up is therefore entirely untrue.

9. In order to understand the extent to which this para is true, it is necessary to promise that the cash balances left by His Highness may be classed under two heads, 1st those of the *Public Treasury*, the accounts of which are exceedingly regular, and the checks on disbursement numerous and apparently efficient. 2ndly, those of the *Khasgee* or *Privy Purse*, of which there are two subdivisions. One comprehending the allowances to the Ranees, salaries of all officers of the household, and all the regular household expenses for food, maintenance of elephants, horses etc; etc; etc; this department is under the control of the *Furnavees*, and though the checks on disbursements are not so numerous, as in the *Public Treasury*, the accounts are quite as full and apparently correct, and the Resident has hitherto seen no reason whatever to suspect any embezzlement or irregularity. The 2nd subdivision of the *Khasgee* department consists of what was strictly speaking His Highness's private personal purse; His Highness was in the habit of setting aside a portion of the sum appropriated under the general head of *Khasgee* expenditure, to meet disbursements which he did not wish to have entered in detail in the regular *Khasgee* accounts, these accounts being as above stated, quite as full, and very nearly as public as the regular public accounts of the State.

10. The money thus set aside by His Highness was kept in a room, of which the key was not entrusted to any public officer; His Highness was in the habit of putting in and taking out the money himself; and the key was generally in the possession of Patloba Jambar (the kharkhandar mentioned in para 4) a very old and trusted servant of about the class and rank of a dressing Humal, who was always about His Highness's person, and had been in a similar situation for nearly 30 years.

11. His Highness's love of order and business-like habits led him to keep many memoranda of the money and jewels put into and taken out of this deposit. The accounts were written, some by different parties who happened to be present at the moment, but generally by an old confidential carkoon. Being intended, however, merely to assist His Highness's own memory, they were not kept in one place nor in one form; nor, as far as they have been examined, is it possible to say from them the amount of money and other property which ought to be found in this private depository. The money referred to in para 4 of the petition was a part of this hoard.

12. None of the public officers know more of the contents of administration of this part of the private funds, then they casually learnt from being about His Highness, and occasionally attending him when he went to put in or take out property.

13. On taking an inventory of this room, the Furnavees, Treasurer and other officers remarked that the quantity of gold in bars forthcoming, was less than ought to have been found, according to their recollection of what they had seen, the last time their master visited the room.

14. In the course of the examination of this room, the attempt above described, under para 4, to get possession of the contents of two boxes of money, had been detected, and suspicion naturally fell on the same parties.

15. It appeared, on making certain minute enquiries, that the night previous to the Raja's death, Pataloba Jamdar had managed to convey through the Palace gates a small bundle, the porter carrying which, favored by the darkness of the night, eluded the vigilance of the men on guard at the Palace gates.

16. Pataloo was questioned by the officers then on guard gave confused and unsatisfactory answers, and further enquiry was put a stop to on that night, by the assurance of the mother of Oomabae that the parcel carried out consisted of some trifles belonging to her.

17. On the gold bars being missed, in taking an inventory of the contents of the room in question, Pataloo and the other parties concerned gave a different, if possible, a still more unsatisfactory account of their proceedings on the night in question.

18. Pataloo was immediately imprisoned on the 2nd of May and has been in confinement ever since.

19. No trace as yet has been discovered of the missing property; but so far from "no enquiry having been made", as the Petitioner asserts, it has been prosecuted in every direction which promised any chance of affording a clue to the supposed robbery. The houses of suspected persons, both in Sattara and in Wae (including that of Oomabae) have been carefully searched; and many hours and days, which could ill be spared, from the heavy current duties of the office, have been devoted to the enquiry, by the Resident and his assistants. The great number of places to be examined, and the necessity of having a European officer present during the whole time, has prevented the complete immediate search of many places which admitted of being secured by sealing them up. Their examination will occupy considerable time. That of the records found will occupy still longer; and though Major James has kindly devoted several days in every week to assist the Resident, in the irksome but necessary duty of searching suspected places and making complete inventories of His Highness's property, it will be some time before the whole can be finished. Till then, it will be impossible to conclude the enquiry regarding the missing gold; when complete, the results of the whole enquiry will, of course, be fully reported to Government.

With regard to the latter part of the para, the Resident has had no reason to suspect that any papers, related to the matter above stated, have been destroyed; and the amount of the supposed loss, as far as the information obtained enable him to judge, may be about 18,000 rupees.

20. Govinda Yekbotia is a carcoon, in the employ of

Oomabae, and since the 8th of April he has been in confinement, on charges of extorting money under pretence of using his influence to bias the decisions of His Highness. Every available source of information regarding his misdeeds has been consulted, as it presented itself, and, as the public servants of His late Highness had little goodwill towards an overbearing and very unpopular favorite, the Resident does not think that much trustworthy information has been withheld from him.

21. As regards the mamlutdars referred to, only 5 have been newly appointed, of late years, by His Highness; two of them are very apparently excellent public servants; of one the Resident has not seen enough to offer an opinion, and the remaining two are certainly of fair average capacity. None of them deserve the characters here given of them as "inexperienced persons".

22. The petition alluded to in this para is apparently by the same hand as the present one. It was, like it, anonymous and was received by post in January last. It enlarged on the corruption of Govind Yekbotia, and contained several scurrilous, imputations on the motives of His Highness's conduct towards his late Dewan and on the management of different departments of the State. Nothing was stated in a manner sufficiently specific, to enable the Resident to take it up; but reference was made to Umrootrao Kurramkur, the same person mentioned at the end of the petition, as able to give further information, and a threat was held out that, unless inquiries were commenced within 8 days, the Petitioner would appeal to the Governor in Council.

23. Amrootrao is a person who formerly practised as a Wukeel in the Poona Udalut, and has latterly been a hanger on about the Courts here. He is not a person whose information could have been safely relied on, as the basis of any advise to, or enquiry from His Highness, and the petition in question was therefore merely read and recorded.

24. As regards the first part of this statement the Resident is at a loss to know what the Petitioner alludes to, unless it be the fact that the balance in the hands of the Furnavees, as superintendent of the Khasgee or household department was made over to him, as soon as it was counted, and not like many other balances, kept under lock and seal for several days. The reason

of this was that the sum in hand (32,316) and more, was required for the Ex Raja's pension (Rs. 10,000), the monthly pay of establishments (both then due), and the funeral expenses of the Raja.

25. The story of the destruction of accounts by the Furnavees came to the Resident's ears, a day or two after the Raja's death. On enquiry it proved that it arose from the following circumstance. Circular had been prepared for all officers of the Sattara Government, intimating the fact of His Highness's death. They had been sealed with His Highness's seal, but before signing and dispatching them the Resident saw occasion to alter an expression which ran through each of them, and the corrected copies having been written, the Resident told the Furnavees " to be careful in cancelling them, to destroy all seals lest they should fall into the hands of parties who would make an improper use of them " to which the Furnavees replied " that he would put them all into water so as effectually to destroy them " which having been done in the presence of several persons, the story got abroad that he had been making away with records. The Resident, on hearing the report, next day, made instant enquiry, and was fully satisfied himself that the fact was, as represented by the Furnavees.

26. Government is fully acquainted with the facts of this case and aware that, in the absence of Wasdeo, Native Doctor, a principal witness, the Resident is unable to put Yeshwuntrao on his trial ; while, with a charge of murder hanging over him he cannot, untried, be set free. He is not in prison, but under strict surveillance in his own residence.

27. It is hardly necessary to say that no promise has been made to the Ranee that the adoption by the late Raja, will be recognised. The declaration of the Resident's inability to give an assurance on the subject of the final decision of the Government has been, as already reported, on repeated occasions, as plain, public and emphatic as language could make it.

28. With regard to the assertion that Madrow Govind, the Native Agent, takes bribes, it is so vague that the Resident can only say that it has always been from this officer that he has received the earliest information of anything going wrong, and the most effectual assistance in setting it right.

29. In consequence of the order of Government, as communicated in the letters, noted . . the Resident was most watchful of the conduct of the Native Assistant; and it is only justice to Madowrow to say that, so far from observing anything to justify suspicion, the Resident has always found Madowrow act with a degree of independence which the Resident feels confident Madowrow could not have evinced, had he not felt conscious that his conduct was above suspicion, and which has always appeared, in the opinion of the Resident, quite incompatible with any supposition but that of high integrity.

30. The Resident can only add that, as people of all classes have access to him in office, in the City, at the residence, and as they beset him with complaints on every conceivable subject, when riding or walking, or wherever they can see him, in or out of his house—as he has besides a day in each week especially set apart for hearing all viva voce complaints, which the complaints may not wish to put in writing, and as they avail themselves of the opportunity, by hundreds at a time, while the Native Agent, who is much engaged with the Assistant Resident, does not think it lightly that the Native Agent could pervert justice, or that much injustice or public misconduct of any kind could be committed, or connived at by him, without the Resident's hearing of it.

31. With respect to the concluding para of the petition, the Resident begs to state that he has called on Umrootrao Kurramkur, who answers the description of the Umrootrao mentioned in the petition, and who on reading the petition stated his belief that he was the person alluded to. The Resident told him that he would be rewarded, if he would assist substantiating any of the charges therein brought forward—but he professed his ignorance of the writer of the petition, and also of the matters contained in it, further than what he had heard from public report, but promised when he recovered from an illness under which he now suffers, to furnish any information in his power on the subject referred to.

32. It is only just, to the great body of public servants of the late Raja, to say that the enquiries which the Resident has made, have left on his mind, a most favorable impression of that fidelity to their late master, and of the general correctness of their public conduct in their several stations, The irregularity and acts

of dishonesty above noticed were, with a very few exceptions, confined to a small party, who were not in Government service, and who owed their power for evil to their connection with an unprincipled person who possessed considerable influence over His Highness.

33. That this influence was sometimes used in a manner prejudicial to His Highness's own true interest, as well as those of his subjects, there can be no doubt ; but it appears to have very little affected the general administration of the country—partly owing to the admirable system of business introduced by Captain Grant Duff and carefully maintained by His Highness, especially in all cases where money was concerned, partly owing to His Highness's own natural good sense and judgment, which was seldom blinded, even where his own feelings were concerned, but perhaps chiefly attributable to a kind of fidelity, on the part of the public servants to their master and to their office, of which the Resident has seen few examples elsewhere, and which indeed it would be somewhat reasonable to expect in men whose forefathers, like those of most of His late Highness's chief officers, have served the same family from generation to generation from 100 to 150 years of varied good and bad fortune.

No. 55. Government satisfied with the explanation of the Resident regarding the anonymous Petition. (From A. Malet, Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, to H. B. E. Frere, Resident, Sattara)

31st July 1848

Sir,

I am directed by the Right Hon'ble the Governor in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your Report No. 62 dated the 20th ultimo, upon an anonymous Petition bearing date the 27th April last, containing accusations against the several establishments of the Sattara State, and in reply to inform you that the explanations therein submitted are deemed by Government quite satisfactory.

No. 56. The importance of the Dussera festival. The festival was both secular and religious. It was looked upon as one of the

most important festivals by the Maratha people. The Resident was worried about the succession question unsettled on so important an occasion. Who was to take the position of the late Raja in the performance of the religious ceremonies. The Resident could replace the late Raja in all Civil functions but what of the religious rites. These and other varied questions were posed by the Resident to the Governor seeking his advise and guidance. He also made his own suggestions to tide over a rather ticklish situation. (From H. B. E. Frere, Resident, to A. Malet)

3rd September 1848

Sir,

I have the honor to request that you will obtain for me the instructions of Government as to the course I am to pursue at the ensuing Dussera, should no final instructions, relative to the disposal of the State of Sattara, be received before that time.

The Right Honorable the Governor in Council is aware that the festival in question is a very important one in the civil polity of the Mahrattas. All who hold land of the sovereign by service tenure are by immemorial custom bound to answer the summons to appear and render their stipulated service or to show good reason for nonappearance on pain of forfeiture, and the like obligation exists on the part of all subtenants of service land of whatever degree towards their immediate superior.

The secular observances connected with the anniversary consists of Darbars, at one of which the servants of the Raja, of whatever kind or degree, and even strangers of respectability, did homage or made presents to His Highness according to their means—at another Durbar, the Raja and his jageerdars mutually presented one another with dresses of honor, and the whole ended with certain religious observances in the course of a general procession, in which every one present had his customary place to fill and duty to perform ; for instance the Punt Pritty Niddy*.. behind the Raja's Howda held the fan of peacock feathers, one of the emblems of royalty. Advantage was generally taken of the period of assemblage to decide, in presence of the parties, all disputes in which Chiefs, or their immediate personal followers were

* The document is a rough draft full of corrections—lines omitted—marginal notes in pencil—makes reading very difficult.

concerned, and about the same period, the Honorable the Governor, liked to send a present of dresses of honor to His Highness and each of his wives, which were acknowledged by similar presents from the Raja.

Great importance always seems to have been attached, both by Mr. Elphinstone and Captain Grant, to the strict observance of these usages as a means of maintaining service tenures in efficiency, and marking unmistakeably the nature of the tenure in which the several jageer were held, and also of bringing the Chiefs of various ranks, in annual communications with their feudal superiors and of ensuring the presence, at least once in the year, to answer complaints without subjecting them to the ordinary, and in their estimation humiliating process of the common Courts of Law.

Formerly, the Residents used to take a prominent part in some of the ceremonies ; but since 1841 he has had nothing to do with them ; merely receiving the guaranteed jageerdars before they enter and after they leave the town, at the commencement, and end of their annual visit, disposing meanwhile in their presence, at less formal Durbars, disputes in which they may be concerned, and which have lain over for the occasion, and usually attending on any day but that of Dussera itself at one of the Durbars, at which all his feudatories Chiefs waited on the Raja.

The embarrassment attendant on the occurrence of the festival, while the question of succession remained undecided, consists in its mixed character as a partly secular and partly religious observance, the latter being also partly of a domestic character—the difficulty as to who should take the place which used to be filled by the Raja (is there).

Even if the Resident hereto hold the Durbars and receive and give the nuzzurs, in the same way as he discharges, for time being, in the name of the English Government, the duties a secular ruler which used to be discharged by the Raja, he could not take a similar part in the religious ceremonies, which are, after all, the main feature of the festival, and the celebration of which is here one of the privileges and marks of royalty.

If, on the other hand, the people are left to arrange the religious ceremonies as matters in which the British Government has

no concern—the jageerdars and Chief officers of the State would take subordinate parts in them, only on the understanding, that the person who acted the principal part was their feudal superior.

On the other hand to intimate to the parties concerned that their attendance will not be required at all, at the festival this year, is open to many serious objections: not the least of which, the intimation would give rise among a class, who have few means of correct information relative to the acts of the British Government, and its reasons for what is done; and whose credulity might lead them to believe any of the numerous absurd stories, which would be sure to go abroad, in consequence, during the present state of uncertainty as to the final disposal of the State. The measure in question would also be obvious reasons highly distasteful to the family of His Highness the late Raja; and hardly less to the numerous servants and dependents of every kind civil and military who anticipate that the continuance of their present employment is contingent on the maintenance of Sattara as a separate State. This feeling is largely shared by the shopkeepers and merchants of the City, whose trade is chiefly dependent on the custom of the Durbar and attendants, who look forward to the Dussera as a London tradesman does to “the season”—as the time when a few weeks of brisk trade are to recompense him for the dullness of other months of the year.

The only middle course that occurs to me, is to allow the widows of His Highness to take their places, as his present representatives in the Dussera ceremonies and processions; to allow the Durbars to be held by them—they of course sitting behind the screens in the usual manner. The jageerdars etc., would then make the usual nuzzurs to them, as heretofore, and omit the nuzzurs they used to make to the Raja. The Ranee would receive heretofore, the annual presents from the Honorable the Governor, making a return in their own names, and would head the procession and perform the pooja with which, the whole festival concludes, receiving the same salutes as were usual whenever they moved out in their husbands lifetime.

The Jageerdars etc., would not object to take their usual parts in the ceremonies so conducted, as is the general Maratha custom to pay all the same honors to the widow of a master or

sovereign, as to the master or sovereign himself when alive, and it would not pledge the British Government to more than a continuance to the widows, during their lives, of the same or similar ceremonial honors which they enjoyed during the life time of their late husband, and which would, I conclude, be conceded to the Ranees whatever might be the decision of the Government relative to the disposal of the late Raja's dominions.

The course I have proposed is not free from objections of etiquette on the part of His late Highness's widows. But they would, I believe, be willing to wave them and it is the only plan I can think of to which all parties concerned could be brought successfully to agree, maintaining the present-reserve of the British Government, and neither acknowledging nor finally disallowing the adoption by His late Highness.

Hitherto, though the Ranees in their own Palace treat the adopted boy as the son of one of themselves, he has never received *any* public mark of respect in the shape of salutes etc., which could mark him out from any other of their Highness's attendants, and I have steadily refused all suggestions to recognise him in any particular, however trifling, in any other position, and however mortifying my refusal may have been at the time, I believe, its obvious propriety has always been in the end acquiesced in by those concerned – that I can see that all parties etc., conclude be conceded to the Ranees whatever might be the decision of the Government relative to the disposal of the late Raja's dominions. All the parties interested in the maintenance of Sattara as an independent State, look forward to the Dussera ceremonies, and the manner in which they are conducted, as affording clear indication of the intentions of the British Government, and the course suggested is, the only one, which occurs to me which would not be considered . . an indication of an intention to annex the State to the British Dominions, or to recognise the adoption, as if orders had actually arrived on the subject from Government.

On the occasion of some of the few religious anniversaries which have occurred since the Raja's decease, I have seen symptoms of the embarrassment which I anticipate at the Dussera; the occasion in question have all been festivals, the observance of which was a pure matter of domestic or private religion and in which therefore, I was anxious not to interfere but the Ranees, as

matter of course, invited to their celebrations at the Palace all chiefs and officers of State, who might happen to be at Sattara, and would naturally have assigned to each the post and office which he would have filled had the Raja been present, the adopted boy taking the Raja's place. Some of the parties invited anticipating what would happen referred to me to know what they were to do ? The difficulty was got over at the time, by privately advising the elder Ranees not to raise questions and expose themselves to mortification by pressing the attendance of any one whose presence would intimate the royal character of the principal, and I subsequently advised the few Chiefs of the class referred to, to absent themselves from Sattara, or to make some civil excuse for non attendance, but such expedients will not obviate similar embarrassment at the Dusera.

Should Government consider that the occasion hardly warrants my troubling them with the above details, I would beg to remind them of the protracted contests constantly engendered among Maratta village officers by their disputes among themselves, relative to the celebration of this particular festival, as illustrating better than anything I could say, the importance they attach to it—so far beyond anything which in our estimation it would profitably deserve.

(Initials) H. B. E. F.

P. S.

I have omitted to mention that the nuzzurs or presents mentioned in para : 3rd were always credited to the Khasghee or Privy Purse of the Raja, and not to the General Treasury.

No. 57. Instructions from the Government of Bombay to the Resident at Sattara that the jageerdars be requested not to attend this year the Dussera festival at Sattara. The Ranees be told that this was necessary because the position of the boy adopted by their late husband was yet undetermined. If the Ranees still wished to perform the religious ceremonies they may receive all the usual honors. But the Ranees were to be told that they must not construe this permission as a pledge that Sattara would continue as a separate State, (From A. Malet to H. B. E. Frere)

14th September 1848

Sir,

I am directed that the Right Hon'ble the Governor in Council, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 93 dated the 2nd instant, requesting to be informed what course you are to pursue at the ensuing Dussera Festival should no decision be passed, before that time, relative to the final disposal of the Sattara State.

In reply, I am desired that you will address several Jageerdars and feudatories of the Sattara State, apprizing them that, as no instructions as to succession, have, as yet, been received, it will be impossible to determine on the manner in which this annual festival should be conducted and, therefore, that it will be better for them not to attend, explaining, at the same time, to the Ranees that this is done solely with the view of obviating the difficulty and mortification which might possibly arise, from requesting the attendance of the Chiefs while position of the boy adopted by their late husband is yet undetermined.

I am, at the same time, desired to inform you that, if the Ranees, when apprised of the desire of Government, that the Chiefs should not attend, still wish to perform the ceremonies of the day, they may receive such honors, salutes etc., as they would were they to take part, in the ceremonies usual, at any other festival.

His Lordship in Council leaves the details to your discretion, but desires me to give you distinctly to understand (and this you should communicate to the Ranees) that no honors are to be admitted to them that can be construed in any way into a pledge on the part of Government to recognize the separate existence of the Sattara State, or that can fetter its proceedings when the final decision of the Government of India or of the Hon'ble the Court of Directors may be received.

I am also desired to request that you will, at the same time, explain to the Ranees and the principal people at Sattara, that this decision is not connected with, and cannot in any way affect the ultimated decision on the question of the continuance or otherwise of the Sattara State, and endeavor to persuade the former to dispense with all ceremonies that are not of a religious or domestic character.

No. 58. The Government's suggestions were conveyed to the Ranees by the Resident. They were disappointed but agreed to abide by them and promised to be guided always by the wisdom of the Resident. The Resident further advised them, that since the time of mourning was still on, that could be given as an excuse for not celebrating the Dussera festival this year. (From H. B. E. Frere to A. Malet)

23rd September 1848

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 331 of the 14th instant, regarding the course to be pursued at the ensuing Dussera, and in reply to state, for the information of Government, that I have conveyed to the Jageerdars the intimation directed in the 2nd para :

I personally communicated the substance of that and the paras to the Ranees in the presence of their principal advisers. The intimation was received with evident regret, but with a declaration of perfect confidence, that whatever was ordered by the British Government was for the best, and of a desire to continue to be guided in this, as in everything else, by the wishes of the Right Hon'ble the Governor in Council as expressed by the Resident.

They requested a little time to consider under the instruction of Government (what) they should themselves do on the occasion in question; but declared they would settle nothing without previously consulting the Resident.

I took the opportunity of pressing on them the advice indicated in the conclusion of your 5th para :, reminding them that the period of mourning for their husband, would be according to custom, a sufficient reason to assign for the omission of.. any ceremony, however imperative under ordinary circumstances.

I shall omit no opportunity to explaining the substance of the para to the principal people at Sattara.

No. 59. The Ranees complied with advise of the Government not to have any celebration at all. They did not even go out in a procession. Their only suggestion, that they be permitted to send the usual Poshak (dress of honor) to the Governor and receive one in

return, was conveyed by the Resident to the Government. (From H. B. E. Frere to A. Malet)

29th September 1848

Sir,

With reference to para: 3rd of my letter No. 105 of the 23rd instant, and the previous correspondence regarding the manner in which the Dussera should be kept this year, I have the honor to report that the Ranees, having sent a messenger to ask my own opinion as to whether they should go out with the Dussera procession this year, I told him I thought it much better they should not, and in consequence when I paid them a visit on the 27th, they told me that they had determined not to go, in the belief that the restriction of the ceremonies of the day to the necessary religious observances, would be more in accordance with the wishes of Government as communicated to them by me.

At the same time they expressed a desire to be allowed to send in their own names the usual Dussera Poshak to the Right Hon'ble the Governor, and that the Poshak which used to be sent from the Government to themselves, through the Agent for the Sirdars and the Resident, might be sent as in their Husband's lifetime.

As I believe the interchange of presents referred to has no connection with any attribute of sovereignty, and the Ranees seemed very anxious on the subject, I trust, the Right Hon'ble the Governor in Council will see no objection to a compliance with their request.

No. 60. The Resident's request for a exchange of Poshak is accepted under a strict understanding that this was not to be regarded as a precedent for future years nor was this interchange of dresses connected with any attribute of sovereignty. (From A. Malet to H. B. E. Frere)

3rd October 1848

Sir,

In acknowledging the receipt of your letter dated the 29th ultimo No. 111, I am directed to transmit for your information copy of my communication of this date to the Agent for Sirdars

in the Dekkan,* authorizing the usual Dussera dresses being sent on this occasion to the Ranees of the late Raja.

I am at the same time desired to add that this measure has been permitted under the full understanding that as stated by you the interchange of these dresses is not connected with any attribute of sovereignty.

You will be pleased to make a distinct intimation to the Ranees that the course adopted on the present occasion is not to be considered as a precedent for future years.

To The Resident

9th October 1848

Sir,

In forwarding your information copy of a letter from Mr. Chief Secretary Malet No. 4112 dated 3rd instant, I have the honor to forward in charge of Nowloo Chobdan three Dussera Dresses and to request that you will cause them to be presented to their Highnesses, the Ranees of the late Raja of Sattara, in the name of His Lordship the Right Honorable the Governor.

A list of the Dresses is herewith annexed
List of the Dussera Dresses for their Highness
the three Ranees of Sattara

The First Ranee Saheb

- 1 Pair of Shawls scarlet
- 1 Saree Scarlet
- 2 Cholees Yellow

The Second Ranee Saheb

- 1 Pair of Shawls Scarlet
- 1 Saree Yellow
- 2 Cholees Yellow

The Third Ranee Saheb

- 1 Pair of Shawls Scarlet
- 1 Saree Yellow
- 2 Cholees Yellow

* A letter dated 3rd Oct. 1848, was sent to Mr. H. Brown, Agent for Sirdars in the Deccan, requesting him to send the dresses but to add that no such precedent is laid down for future years.

Letter to Mr. Frere, Resident, dated 9th Oct. 1848 intimated that the Resident may pursue the course laid down in his letter of the 23rd ultimo; and that his suggestions were satisfactory.

No. 61. The dress of Honor sent to the Governor of Bombay by the Ranees of Sattara. (From H. B. E. Frere to A. Malet)

14th October 1848

Sir,

I have the honor to request you will be pleased to lay before the Right Honorable the Governor, the annexed translation of a yad No. 9 of the 14th instant, from Sugoona Bae, the eldest widow of His Highness the late Raja of Sattara, together with translation of its accompaniments.

I have also the honor to enclose the thylce therein alluded to, to the address of His Lordship the Right Honorable Lord Viscount Falkland.

The Poshak for His Lordship also accompanies this letter.

Translation of a yad from Sugoona Bae Saheb, the eldest Ranee of H. H. the late Raja of Sattara, to the address of the Resident No. 9 dated 4th October 1848.

The Thylce which is accompanying the Dussera Poshak for the Right Honorable Lucius Viscount Falkland, Governor etc., together with copies of the letter and the list of articles comprizing the Poshak contained therein are sent. On the receipt of the Resident's letter the Poshak will be dispatched.

Translation of a letter addressed to the Right Honourable Lucius Bentinck Falkland, Governor etc , by Sugoona Bae, the eldest Ranee of H. H. the late Raja of Sattara, dated 14th October 1848.

Hurry Oogale, Hoozria and Kaloo Mohita, Jamdar, will deliver to your Lorship a Poshak on account of the Dussera festival. A list showing the articles in detail accompanies it. An acknowledgement of its receipt will oblige.

It will be gratifying to receive constant accounts of Your Lordship's health and prosperity.

Translation of a list of the articles comprised in the Poshak for the Honorable the Governor

- 1 Red Pytunee Teewut
- 1 Pair of white Shawls
- 1 Piece Kincob
- 2 Pieces Mulmul

5

No. 62. The Resident reports the Government that the Dussera festival passed without any disturbances in any part of the Sattara State. Timely rains in nearly all parts of the country promised a normal harvest. But efforts must be made to capture the notorious bandits who plundered with impunity considerable portions of this part of the country. They were the leaders of the Ramosies. (From H. B. E. Frere to A. Malet).

14th October 1848

Sir,

I have the honor to report for the information of Government that the Dussera and its contingent holidays passed of without accident or disturbances of any kind, and that all classes seemed to have returned to their avocations.* The reports from officers of various districts are all of the same character and a very favorable fall of rain, in most parts, has almost entirely removed the apprehensions which began to be entertained of a deficient crop.

I trust, it will not be considered out of my province to remark, that a very great additional security would be afforded for the peace of all this part of the country, could Hummunta, the escaped Ramoosee convict, and the relations and followers of Omajee, the late Ramoosee leader, who were supposed to be concerned in some late gang robberies in the Poona Zilla be recaptured, as they are all more or less known to and connected with all the Ramoosee population of these districts.

On hearing from Major Liddell that it was conjectured they might have fled into this territory, descriptions of the gang were sent to all district officers and jageerdars, and a reward of Rs. 200 offered for the arrest of any of the party. Detachment of irregular Horse were also posted at convenient places along the whole line of the Neera and Mahadeo Hills, where the Ramoosee population is thickest, with a view to act on any intelligence of a reassemblage of the gang.

It is probable, however, that they will remain separate and concealed till the proceeds of their last robbery are spent, or till

* Letter No. 4387 of 20th October 1848 from the Government of Bombay was happy to learn that no incidents took place at the Dussera festival.

some particular temptation offers ; but as great mischief might be done if the gang were to become permanently organised, I would respectfully submit the propriety of offering a considerable reward for the capture of the ring leader. If it were not considerably advisable to issue any proclamation on the subject, the same object might be attained by authorising the Magistrate and Major Liddell to pledge themselves for the disbursement of the sum. Their agents would find it difficult to obtain any useful information without promising to pay for it highly, as the risk for informing is undoubtedly great ; and probably Rs. 2000 spent to effect an such object would in the end be economically applied.

No. 63. No new appointments were to be made for the present pending the final decision of the future of the Sattara State. (From A. Malet to H. B. E. Frere).

30th November 1848

Sir,

I am directed by the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, to transmit to you an extract from paragraph 5th from a letter from the Honorable the Secret Committee, dated the 6th ultimo, appraising of all appointments in the Sattara territory being considered temporary pending the final decision of the questions raised consequent on His Highness the Raja's death.

Extract para : 5 from a letter from the Honorable Secret Committee, dated 6th October 1848.

Para : 5. The questions raised by the death of the late Raja of Sattara will be considered, when the opinion of the Governor General of India in Council, shall have been received. In the meantime we approve of your decision that all appointments within the territory of Sattara must be considered only as temporary.

(True Extract)

Sd. A. Malet

Chief Secretary.

REVIEWS

MOUNTSTUART ELPHINSTONE

The Indian Years 1796-1827 : by R. D. CHOKSEY

Bombay : Popular Prakashan, pp. 465 Rs. 60/-

PROFESSOR CHOKSEY's Life of Mountstuart Elphinstone is the culmination of a life work of scholarly devotion to the history of Western Indian since 1800. It is fitting that long years of arduous study in what must often have been endlessly tedious, dust-ridden archives should have been crowned by this moving human tribute to the founder and first British governor of the greater Bombay Presidency. For, this, in a way, is a work of love, all the more touching for the hatred which many aspects of British rule in India obviously inspire in this careful and meticulous historian. 'An empire, the rule of one people over another is never justified,' .. he writes '.. And, though there is not much that Anglo-Indian rule can boast of, there were Englishmen of character like Mountstuart Elphinstone.'

In several excellent chapters which deal with Mountstuart's work in setting up the administration of the Deccan - or the enlarged Bombay Presidency which it became - the establishment of the rule of law, the social reforms, the tremendous work for education, scholarship and history, Professor Choksey goes far to justify the opinion of modern British historians Professor Choksey himself describes Elphinstone and his great contemporary, Thomas Munro (' these two tall statesmen ' he calls them) where ' determined to leave India happier than they found it ' and it is his special concern to describe Elphinstone's ' unsparing efforts in the pursuit of the happiness of the natives. ' He is too good a historian to pass over the terrible economic aftermath of some of Elphinstone's economic policies. A great deal of Professor

Choksey's professional life has, after all, been devoted to the economic history of the Bombay-Deccan and Karnatak 1818-68, but it is significant of his generosity and affection as a man viewing the life of another man he can write : ' No man need be judged by his success, what matters are his intentions. '

This, indeed, is the tone of this touching book - touching because in an age where cynicism about motives is rampant and nationalism justifies hatred, an experienced historian who has spent his years largely in economic research of a most painstaking and laborious kind, is suddenly fired by the moral example of a good man - ' a lesson ', as he himself describes Elphinstone's life, ' in good and honourable living. '

One suspects as he dips into Elphinstone's private and intimate journal with his endless self-questioning and striving for moral perfection, that Professor Choksey experiences this moral scene just as he has experienced the same physical paths along which Elphinstone passed. He gives the quotations with charm and delicacy which is much to his credit.

Quest
March-April 1973. }

Shiela Grant Duff

Unlike Principal Choksey, Colebrook dealt not only with Elphinstone's Indian career, but with the whole of his life. The present work covers comprehensively the Indian years, while giving enough information about the somewhat complicated family history of the large and influential Elphinstone clan to set Mountstuart in perspective. It is a work of immense industry, based upon the great wealth of original papers preserved in the India Office Library. Of these, the author has made excellent use, with the result that every stage in his subject's career - early years, the Kabul Mission, his period as Resident in Poona, his settlement of the Deccan, and his Governorship of Bombay can be followed

in Elphinstone's own words, or in the words of his many correspondents. This book is unlikely to be superseded; it is scholarly and complete, although the index might perhaps be more detailed.

21 - 7 - 1972.

The Times Literary Supplement,
London

Professor Choksey, who is the author of many excellent publications, has done ample justice to the book under review which is the outcome of his diligent study of the Elphinstone Papers in the India Office Library in London. He writes with vigour and warmth about his hero whom he rightly presents as a man of great personal rectitude and a scholar. The book certainly makes a valuable addition to Colebrook's classic on Elphinstone.

Sunday Standard }
2 - 7 - 72.

V. B. Kulkarni

Of the authors, Professor Choksey is the seniormost with thirteen other books to his credit. This work, the outcome of his research on the Commonwealth Scholarship in U. K. in 1966-67, covers ground on which he himself has trodden repeatedly. Even where Choksey deals with facts already known at length, for instance, the activities of Elphinstone as the Resident at Poona from 1810-1818, new light is brought to bear on the subject by his handling of the vast mass of private papers of that British diplomat.

Amrita Bazar Patrika }
21 - 1 - 73.

Nikhiles Guha

Principal Choksey, a diligent Maratha scholar with a number of books on the history of western India to his credit, has been so taken with Elphinstone that he has indulged himself in this discursive biography. From the ample surviving pages of Elphinstone diaries and letters he quotes at length evidence his subject's health, his reading of Greek and Persian classics, and his romantic

taste for the wilder Indian landscapes, even at the risk which he candidly admits—of “ perhaps (making) this biography rather dull to the reader.”

South Asian Review, London
Vol. 6 No. 1 of October 1972.

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John Rosselli

R. D. Choksey has given in this work a very authentic account of Elphinstone's life and achievements. His narrative is based on a critical examination of the original documents preserved in England. In his zeal to be authentic and accurate, Choksey has woven his narrative with a number of extracts from the original documents.

Bhavan's Journal
Vol. XIX No. 15 of 18-2-73.

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Dr. C. M. Kulkarni

Scholar, author, soldier, administrator and statesman, Elphinstone was an exceptional man, and his biography by Principal R. D. Choksey is an exceptional one. Having specialized in the history of the Deccan in the nineteenth century, the very period in which Elphinstone played a crucial role in that history, Choksey has succeeded very well indeed in giving a fine, full and authentic account of the Indian years of Elphinstone (1796-1827). His Mountstuart Elphinstone (Popular Prakashan, 35 C Tardeo Road, Bombay 34 WB. Rs. 60/-), should be put at the head of his earlier twelve books ; by any standard, it is a major achievement.

28 - 1 - 73.

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Andherajyoti



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